EXAXXION

THE CANNON GOD

4

KEN'ICHI SONODA Presents

EXAXXION

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ONI JOY COMICS

(주)세주문화

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THE CANNON GOD
EXAXXION
STAGE 4

CANNON GOD EXAXXION

STAGE 4.1

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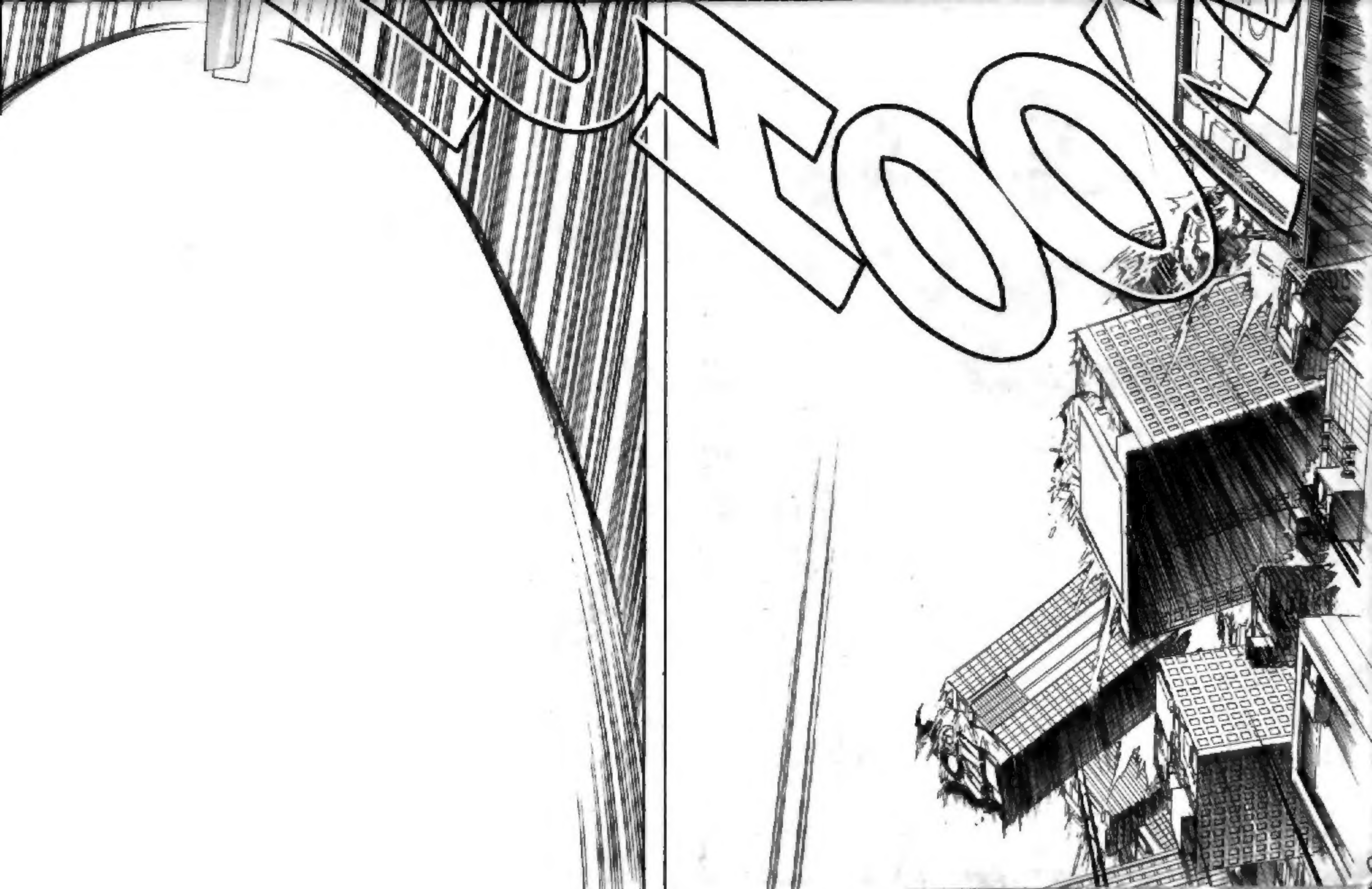
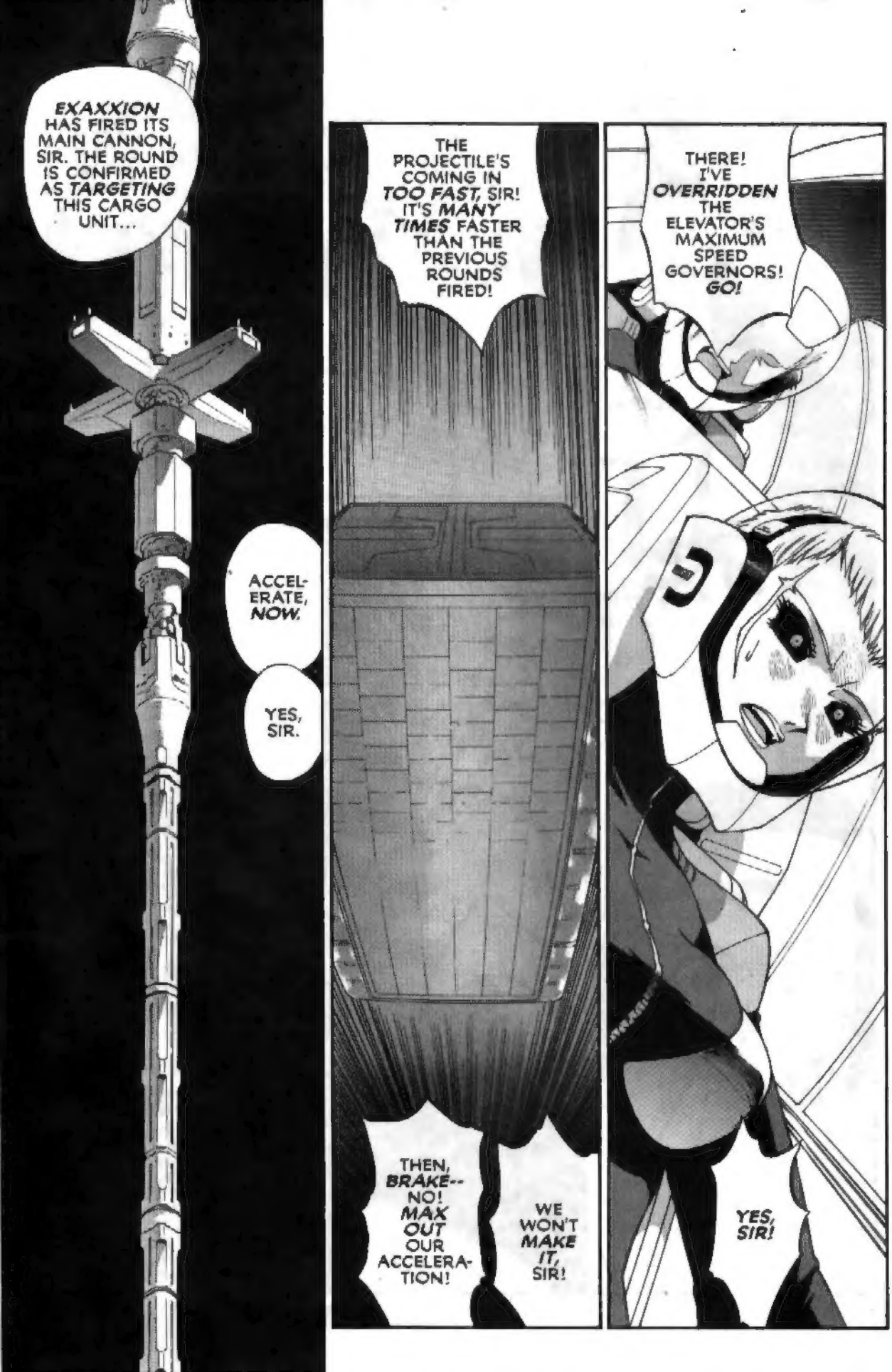

TOC!

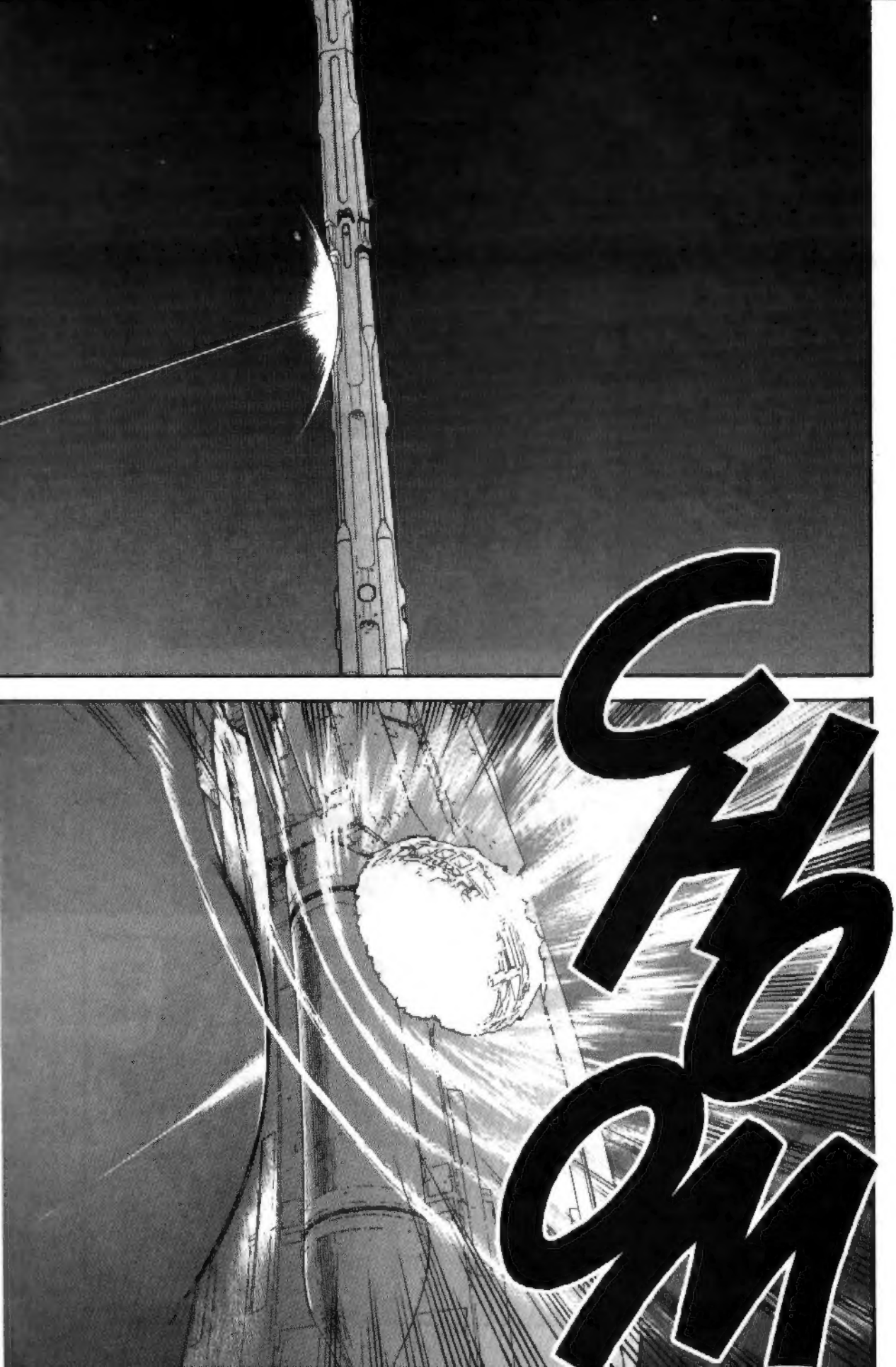
EXAXXION

KSHANG
SKROOM
NHROOM

HERE COMES THE *MUZZLE BLAST* AND *SHOCK WAVE!* OUR MAGNETIZATION SHIELDS SEEM TO BE HOLDING UP.
ALL *WELL* WITHIN ANTICIPATED PARA-METERS... WE'RE *CLEAR,* SIR.
THE CANNON ROUND... WILL IT *HIT?*
YES, SIR...BUT WE WERE AIMING FOR THE *BOTTOM* SECTION OF THE CARGO UNIT.
IT NOW APPEARS THAT WE'LL *BARELY* CLIP ITS UPPER SECTION...
JUST *HIT* THE DAMN THING...
×06
WHILE THE ROUND'S TRAVELING AT *FULL-BARREL VELOCITY,* WE CAN'T MORPH ITS AERODYNAMIC PROFILE VERY MUCH TO CHANGE ITS TRAJECTORY...IF WE DO, THE SUCKER WILL *BREAK UP* IN MID-FLIGHT...

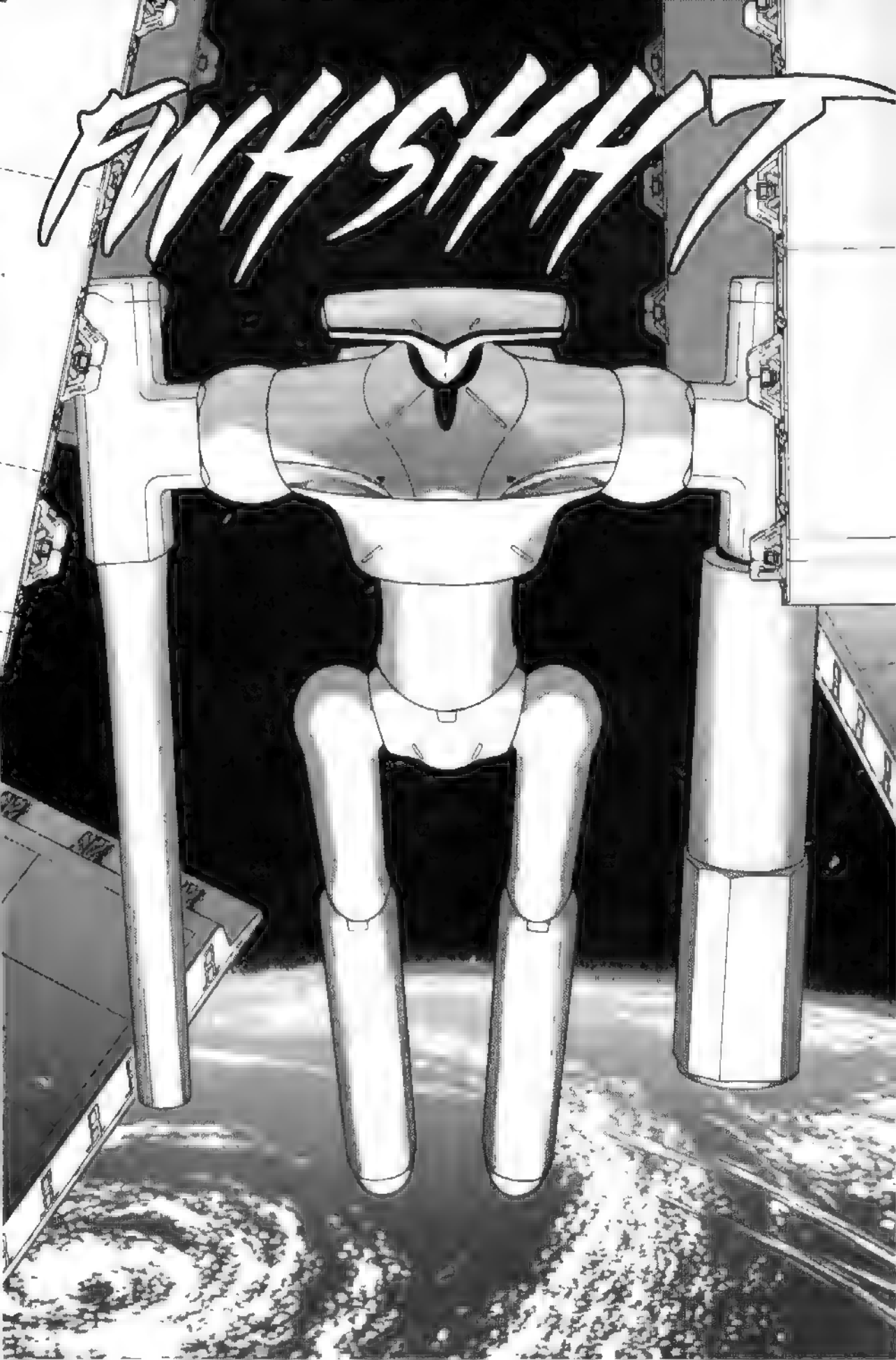

EXAXXION HAS FIRED ITS MAIN CANNON, SIR. THE ROUND IS CONFIRMED AS TARGETING THIS CARGO UNIT...
ACCEL-ERATE, NOW.
YES, SIR.
THE PROJECTILE'S COMING IN TOO FAST, SIR! IT'S MANY TIMES FASTER THAN THE PREVIOUS ROUNDS FIRED!
THEN, BRAKE-- NO! MAX OUT OUR ACCELERA-TION!
WE WON'T MAKE IT, SIR!
THERE! I'VE OVERRIDDEN THE ELEVATOR'S MAXIMUM SPEED GOVERNORS! GO!
YES, SIR!

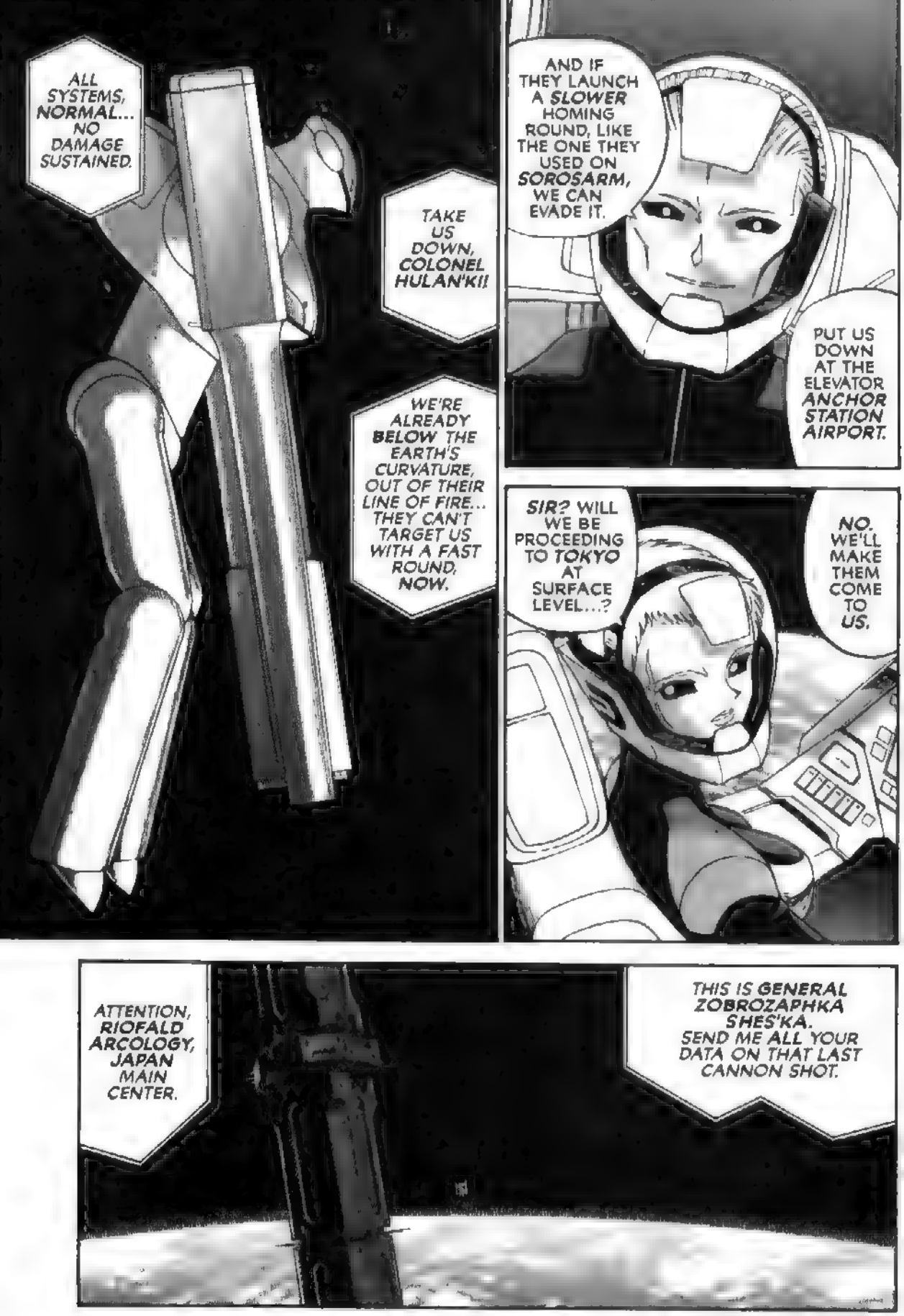
FWOOSH
THEN GENERATE A GRAVITATIONAL BYPASS! *DEFLECT* IT!
THE CANNON ROUND IS PROJECTED TO MAKE A *DIRECT HIT* ON THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR SHAFT, SIR!
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH *POWER* TO DO THAT, SIR!
SECONDS LEFT TO IMPACT: *EIGHT... SEVEN...*
ROUND HAS LEFT THE ATMOSPHERE AND IS RECONFIGURING TO *IMPACT MODE...*
THE TARGET IS *STILL* ACCELERATING--!
WE'RE GOING TO *MISS*--


ぐおお

WHROOOM
NGKK
SKRKK
THE SHAFT DIRECTLY ABOVE US HAS *SNAPPED,* SIR! THE ELEVATOR'S *COLLAPSING!*
LOSS OF STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY IS EXCEEDING THE *INERTIAL CONTROL* STABILIZERS' SAFETY LIMITS... THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS STARTING TO *DISINTEGRATE!*
SKROOOM
RMBBB
FSHOOM

FOOOSH
JETTISON THE TRANS-PORT CASING!
WE'LL USE OUR ON-BOARD GRAVITY CONTROL!
YES, SIR, GENERAL SHES'KA!
KCHUNG
KCHUNG
SKRANGG
WHSHOOM
WHSHOOM


PUNISHER


ALL SYSTEMS, NORMAL... NO DAMAGE SUSTAINED.
TAKE US DOWN, COLONEL HULAN'KI!
WE'RE ALREADY BELOW THE EARTH'S CURVATURE, OUT OF THEIR LINE OF FIRE... THEY CAN'T TARGET US WITH A FAST ROUND, NOW.
AND IF THEY LAUNCH A SLOWER HOMING ROUND, LIKE THE ONE THEY USED ON SOROSARM, WE CAN EVADE IT.
PUT US DOWN AT THE ELEVATOR ANCHOR STATION AIRPORT.
SIR? WILL WE BE PROCEEDING TO TOKYO AT SURFACE LEVEL...?
NO. WE'LL MAKE THEM COME TO US.
ATTENTION, RIOFALD ARCOLOGY, JAPAN MAIN CENTER.
THIS IS GENERAL ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA. SEND ME ALL YOUR DATA ON THAT LAST CANNON SHOT.

THE TARGET'S IN A STATE OF CONTROLLED DESCENT... NOT FREEFALL.
CLEARLY, IT'S STILL FULLY OPERATIONAL, SIR.
SO HOICHI MISSED, DID HE...?
THE TARGET APPEARS TO BE DESCENDING TOWARDS THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR BASE...
WELL...WE COULD FIRE A GUIDED MORPHING ROUND FROM NORMAL-BARREL CONFIGURATION, AND--
AND WE WOULDN'T EVEN SCRATCH IT, MY DEAR!
IF ONLY MASTER HOICHI HAD FIRED JUST TWO SECONDS EARLIER...! SUCH A SHAME...
I KNOW, SIR. WE'RE ALREADY ANALYZING THE NEW ROBOT.
TANEGA-SHIMA! GET ME A FULL BREAK-DOWN OF--
WE SHOULD HAVE AN ESTIMATE OF ITS ANTI-MATTER RESERVES WITHIN A MINUTE OR TWO.
BUT, SIR... WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT HOICHI ...?

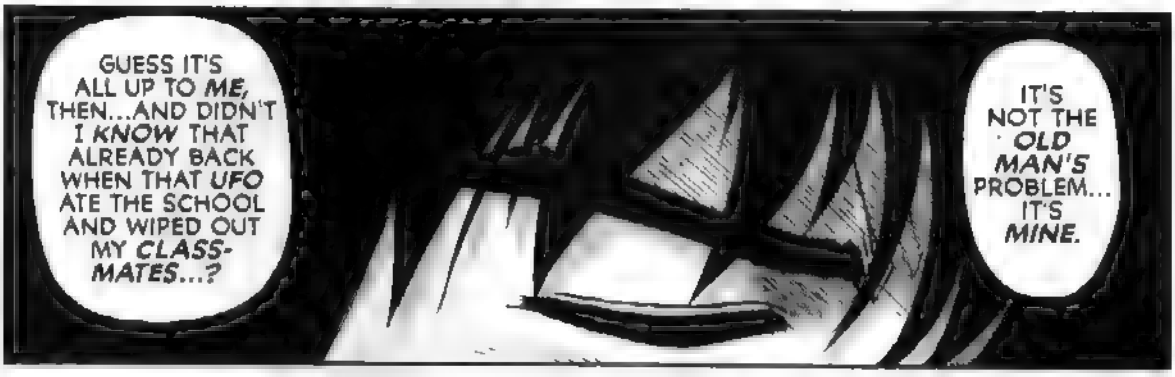
AKANE... ARE YOU OKAY ...?
UM... Y-YES, I THINK I'M FINE, GUN... BUT WHAT WAS THAT BIG BANG...?
HOICHI! WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!
PLEASE, CALM DOWN, MOM! HE--
BEEP!
ISAKA... HOW MUCH FRIGGIN' DAMAGE DID WE JUST RACK UP?
THEY'RE CALCULATING THE LOSSES RIGHT NOW, OVER AT MASTER HOSUKE'S LAB...
HEY, I CAN SEE THAT THE BALL-PARK'S OKAY, AT LEAST...!
WELL...AN EVACUATION ORDER WAS IN PLACE, SO HUMAN AND RIOFALDIAN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SHOULD ONLY BE ROUGHLY 5000 OR SO.
AS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL, HUMAN LOSSES SHOULD TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 200, RIOFALDIAN LOSSES 500...
5000 CIVILIANS DEAD...
PSHHNK
...ALL BECAUSE I CHOSE TO PULL THAT TRIGGER...

VRMMMM
EXAXXION
GRANDPA... I MEAN, DAD ...?
WHAT NOW, BOY?
GET YOUR NAMES STRAIGHT, SON O' MINE.
SO... ARE YOU GONNA BEG FOR HELP?
HELL, NO! BUT...YOU'LL TAKE IN AKANE AND HER FOLKS, RIGHT...?
HEY, YOU SCREWED AROUND, SON. AND SO YOU MISSED.
BUT... YOU PROMISED--!
PI'K
I PROMISED, BUT YOU FAILED, DAMN IT!

MASTER HOSUKE, IS THIS *WISE...?*
MY DEAR, HE'S *ALREADY* SLIPPED MY CONTROL. IT'S FAR TOO LATE IN THE GAME, NOW, TO MESS AROUND WITH *LECTURES* OR *DEALS.*
SO THIS IS HOICHI'S *BIG CHANCE...* WE'LL FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT HE'S GOT THE GUTS TO BE A *CONQUEROR!*
BAMM
AND IF HE *DOESN'T,* SIR?
WHAT *THEN ...?*
I COULD DEPLOY *ISAKA-2* AND BOARD EXAXXION MYSELF... BUT IF THE BOY PUTS ISAKA-1 INTO *DEFENSE MODE,* IT'S ALL OVER.
I SHOULD HAVE *CHANGED* THOSE ON-BOARD MANUAL OPERATION HIERARCHIES, DAMN IT...
I GAVE TOO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY TO ISAKA..
OKAY... TIME FOR SOME *R&R!*
REIKO! STAR! I'M HEADED FOR THE BATH, AND I NEED SOME *COMPANY!*
YES, SIR!
YES, DEAR...
AND LADIES, LEMME KNOW IF YOU DETECT ANY *MOVES* BY THAT DAMNED *'FALDIE ROBOT!*

SIR, WHAT DO WE DO IF MASTER HOICHI ASKS FOR HELP?
LUCKY STAR!
I'VE LOADED ISAKA WITH ALL MY TACTICAL PATTERNS, REMEMBER?
TELL THE BOY TO ASK HER FOR HELP!
PSHHKK
ISAKA DIDN'T LISTEN TO THE OLD MAN... SHE LISTENED TO ME.
HEY, ISAKA... WHERE DID THAT ENEMY ROBOT END UP?
IT SHOULD BE LANDING AT THE ELEVATOR BASE'S AIRPORT MOMENTARILY, MASTER HOICHI.
WHICH MEANS I'M IN CONTROL OF EXAXXION NOW...

*IS THERE **ANY** WAY TO MAKE UP FOR THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE...? I CAN'T THINK OF ONE...AND NEITHER CAN THAT **OLD BASTARD**...*


GUESS IT'S ALL UP TO *ME*, THEN...AND DIDN'T *I KNOW* THAT ALREADY BACK WHEN THAT *UFO* ATE THE SCHOOL AND WIPED OUT MY *CLASS-MATES*...?
IT'S NOT THE *OLD MAN'S* PROBLEM... IT'S *MINE*.

*I CAN'T MAKE EVEN **ONE** DEATH BE OKAY.*

*ALL I CAN DO IS BUILD THE **FUTURE**...A FUTURE THAT SAVES AS MANY **OTHER** LIVES AS POSSIBLE!*

*EVEN IF THAT MAKES ME THE **WORST VILLAIN OF ALL!***

EXAXXION
EXAXXION

EXAXXION IS NOW *FALLING STRAIGHT UP,* GUN. WE'RE CLEAR OF ALL, UM, *SURFACE OBSTACLES...*
GO *FASTER,* ISAKA! *PUNCH IT,* OKAY?
UNDERSTOOD, SIR. ACCELERATING AT *FOUR GEES... FIVE* GEES...NOW SHIFTING TO *HORIZONTAL* TRAJECTORY ORIENTATION.
AND BE READY TO FIRE AS SOON AS WE *LAND...* NO, BE READY AS SOON AS WE'RE *WITHIN RANGE!*
YES, MASTER HOICHI! HOWEVER, I *DO* HAVE AN OPTIMAL *"HOSUKE TACTICAL PLAN"* ON FILE...
PSHNKK
HELL WITH *THAT!* I'M FLYING EXAXXION *ON MY OWN,* FOR BETTER OR WORSE!

SFX: MMH MMH

NO, IT WOULD MAKE HIM TOO MUCH LIKE ME BUT AS SOON AS IT REACHES THE BASE, WARN ME WITHOUT DELAY
HONEY. ARE YOU SURE HOICHI WILL GO THERE?

*YES WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE A DIRECT CONNECTION

ISN'T THIS A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE ENEMY?
SO AT LEAST YOU WANT TO TAKE IN AKANE AND HER PARENTS HERE?
THE FACT THAT THEIR ROBOT IS LARGER OR BETTER EQUIPPED IS NOT IMPORTANT
OUR XXX UNIT AND ITS INERTIAL AND GRAVITATIONAL CONTROLS RENDER OBSOLETE ALL LASER WEAPONS.
OUR BASE HAS A PARTICLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXAXXION'S ANTIMATTER CONTROLS. .
WHICH CONSERVES MOST OF IT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, BEING IN THE ROBOT IS BETTER THAN BEING HERE.
N. NO.
COME, LET'S DO IT .
IN FRONT OF STAR, I.
YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL HERE.
COME TO ME.

HONEY.. PROMISE TO ME ONE THING..
YES? WHAT IS IT, MY SWEET ?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
..ALWAYS THINK WELL OF HOICHI.
PLEASE...
IT IS OBVIOUS, SEE.
NOBODY IS IN A BETTER POSITION THEN ME TO ENSURE HIS PROTECTION.
BEFOR GETTING IN THE WATER, LET ME SMELL YOUR SOFT PERFUME.
THEN I'LL COUNT ON YOU..
AHH.. MMM.. MMM..

WHAT'S THAT--?!
EEEK!
SOME-THING'S LANDING AT THE AIR-PORT!

IS IT ANOTHER ROBOT?
DAMN! JUST LOOK AT THAT THING! JEEZ...!
HEY! STOP SHOVING ...!

WHAT IS IT...?

CHOOM

KT-LOOM
RMBB
RMBB RMBB RMBB
RMBB

IT'S BIGGER THAN THE *LAST* ONE!

IT *IS* ANOTHER GIANT ROBOT!

ARE WE GONNA SEE ANOTHER *SHOOT-OUT?*

GET BACK FROM THE *WINDOWS,* HUMAN SWINE!

EXAXXION'S INBOUND TO THIS BASE VIA GRAVITATIONAL MANIPULATION SIR.

STILL *WELL* OUT OF RANGE, THOUGH.

ITS TRAJECTORY WILL LAND IT *HERE,* I PRESUME?

YES, SIR.

ASSEMBLE THE *MAIN CANNON,* COLONEL, AND TARGET EXAXXION'S *PROJECTED POSITION.*

WE NEED TO *TEST FIRE* OUR MASS WEAPON.

MAIN BARREL CHAMBER, SET.
PSHHNKK
KLANGG
KCHUNG
GENERAL SHES'KA... IS THIS ADVISABLE ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, SIR, FOR THE GENERAL TO BE ON BOARD, DURING SUCH A DANGEROUS OPERATION...
YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, COLONEL.
KTHOOM
AH...BECAUSE THIS RA'UN META'AR UNIT IS OUR MOST CRITICAL STRATEGIC ASSET, SIR...?
PRECISELY.
ANYONE COULD STAGE A COUNTER-COUP WITH THIS WEAPON... I CANNOT LET IT OUT OF MY CONTROL AT ANY TIME.

WE'VE PAIRED RIOFALD'S LARGEST *MASS WEAPON* WITH A *RA'UN META'AR* UNIT YIELDING *ASTRONOMICAL* LEVELS OF GRAVITATIONAL AND INERTIAL CONTROL.

VRMMMM

PSHHT

KSHANGG

NO WEAPON ON EITHER RIOFALD *OR* EARTH IS CAPABLE OF STOPPING THIS UNIT ONCE IT'S DEPLOYED.

NOT EVEN THE FAMOUS *"EXAXXION,"* SIR?

OF *COURSE,* COLONEL.

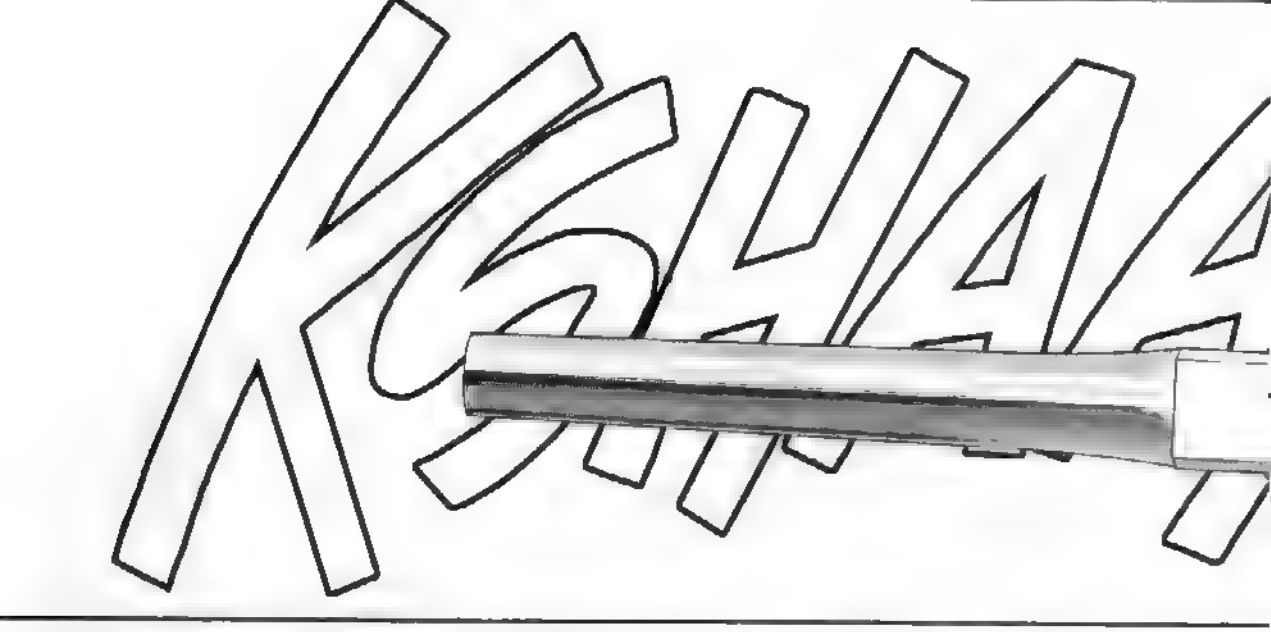
AFTER ALL, OUR CANNON ROUNDS ARE *HALF AGAIN* THE CALIBER OF EXAXXION'S.... AND THEIR PAYLOAD IS *THREE* TIMES AS LARGE!

EVEN IF THE HUMANS' ROBOT *WAS* UP TO OUR TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL, WE'D HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

WE TOTALLY *OUTCLASS* THEM IN EVERY CATEGORY, SAVE FOR *ENDURANCE...* MEANING, *ANTI-MATTER SUPPLY.*

BUT SINCE THEY'RE COMING TO *US,* WE CAN MANEUVER THEM INTO *CLOSE-QUARTERS COMBAT...* WHICH WILL BE DECIDED WITHIN A MATTER OF *MINUTES.*

AS YOU CAN SEE, COLONEL, THERE'S NO POSSIBILITY THAT *"DAGUNOV ONE"* CAN LOSE THIS ENGAGE-MENT!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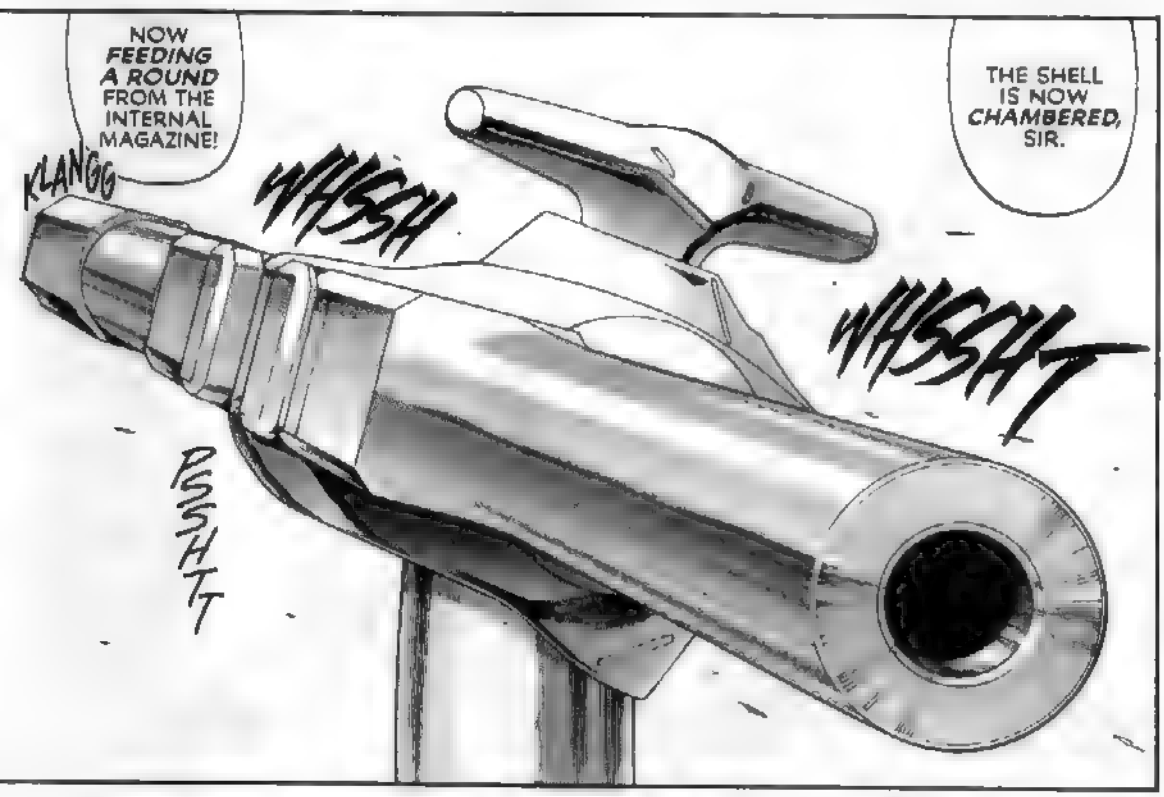
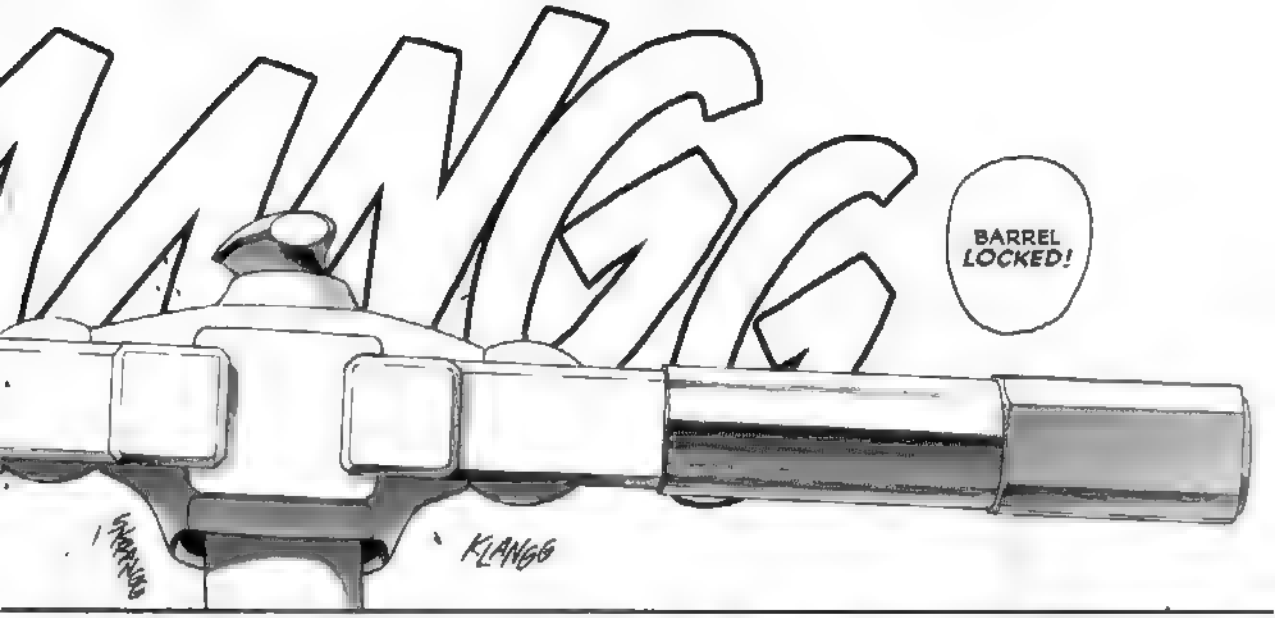
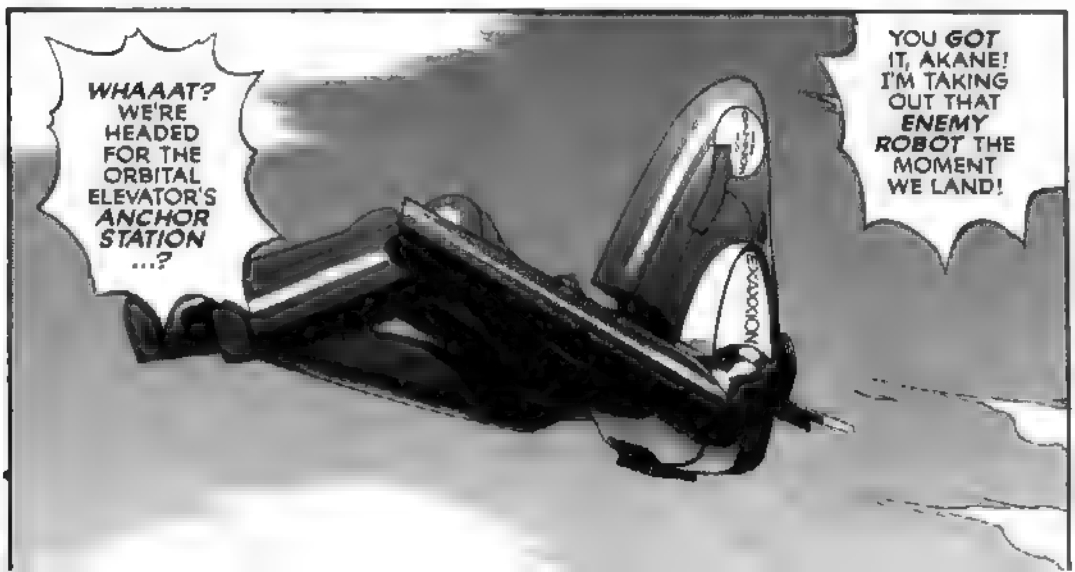

NOW FEEDING A ROUND FROM THE INTERNAL MAGAZINE!
KLANGG
WHSSH
PSSHT
THE SHELL IS NOW CHAMBERED, SIR.
WHSSHT

LOCKED ON TO PROJECTED ENEMY POSITION.
TRANSFERRING TRIGGER CONTROL TO CO-PILOT.


KLANGG
BARREL LOCKED!
KLANGG

FSHOOOOM


WHAAAT? WE'RE HEADED FOR THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR'S ANCHOR STATION ...?
YOU GOT IT, AKANE! I'M TAKING OUT THAT ENEMY ROBOT THE MOMENT WE LAND!
EXXXXXON

DON'T *WORRY*, HUH? THIS IS THE *BEST WAY* TO DEAL WITH 'EM!

GUN, I *TOLD* YOU... MY *SISTER'S* AT THAT BASE!

YOU CAN'T TURN IT INTO A BATTLE-FIELD ...!

AKANE, LISTEN...WE *HAVE* TO DESTROY THIS THING! WE'VE GOTTA *END* THIS WAR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

AND I'M GOING *TOE-TO-TOE* WITH THAT SUCKER, SO THERE *WON'T* BE A SHOOT-OUT!

THESE *CANNONS* WIPE OUT EVERYTHING AROUND THEM WHEN THEY FIRE...BUT THE 'FALDIES WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THEIR GUNS AT *HAND-TO-HAND RANGE!*

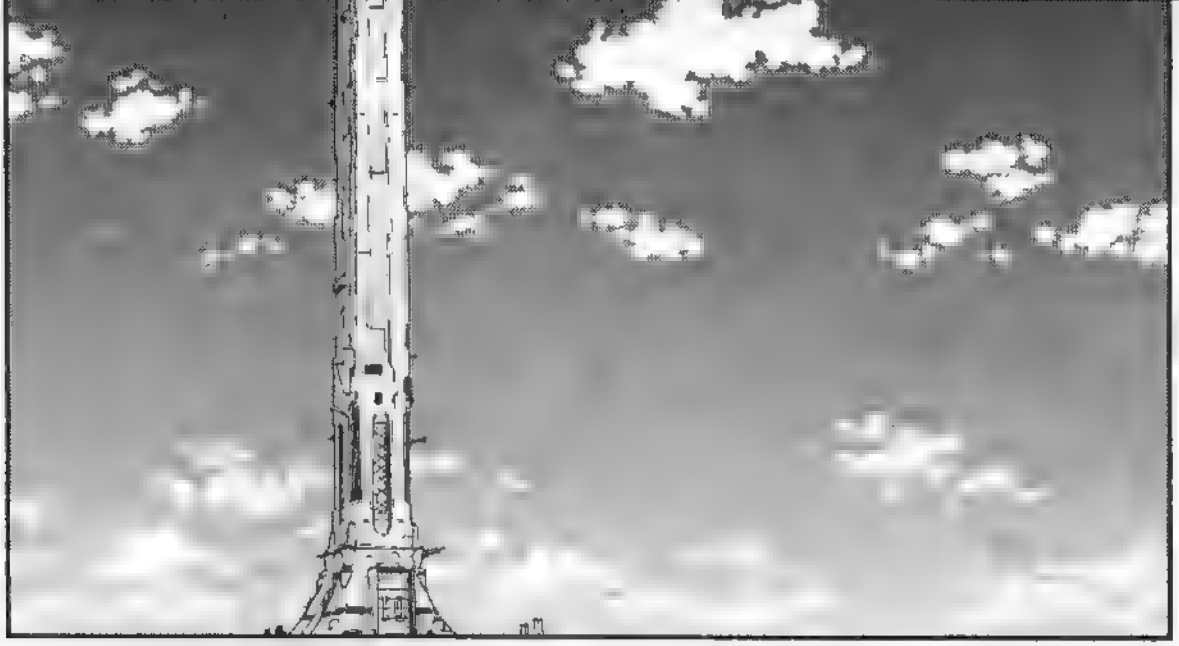
GUN, DON'T BE *STUPID* ...! YOU'LL GET YOURSELF *KILLED!*

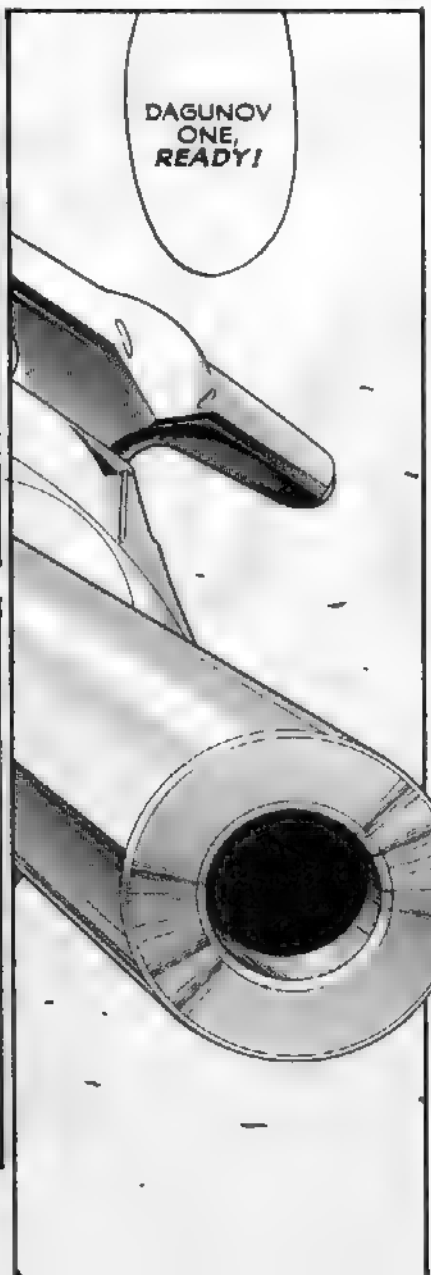
ER... WAR IS A *BAD* THING, SON...

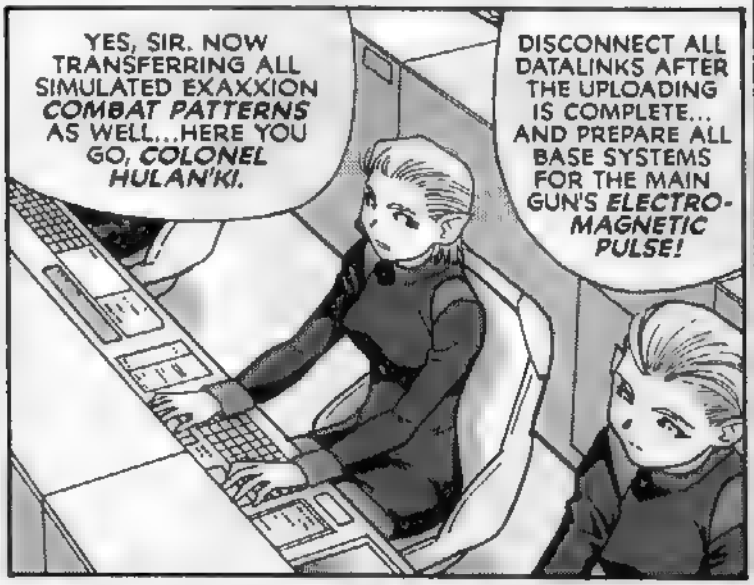
H-*HOICHI!* I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE SUCH A BLOOD-THIRSTY *MONSTER!*

YOU *STAY AWAY* FROM MY DAUGHTER, DO YOU HEAR ME? WE'RE *THROUGH* WITH YOU!

MOOOOM...! NONE OF THIS IS GUN'S FAULT! STOP BLAMING HIM!
YOU KEEP QUIET, MISSY!
WAIT A SECOND... AKANE! D-DON'T TELL ME...
...DID YOU SLEEP WITH HIM...?!
HAHH ....?!
J-JEEZ, MOM... WE HAVEN'T GONE THAT FAR YET!
"YET" --?!
SHUT UP BACK THERE!
I'VE GOT BOTH YOUR LIVES IN MY HANDS, UNDERSTAND?
WHAT ABOUT MY LIFE, SIR...?
NOW, BRACE YOURSELVES! I'LL WIN THIS BATTLE, I SWEAR IT!






YES, SIR. NOW TRANSFERRING ALL SIMULATED EXAXXION *COMBAT PATTERNS* AS WELL...HERE YOU GO, *COLONEL HULAN'KI.*
DISCONNECT ALL DATALINKS AFTER THE UPLOADING IS COMPLETE... AND PREPARE ALL BASE SYSTEMS FOR THE MAIN GUN'S *ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE!*

TO BE CONTINUED...!

CANNON GOD EXAXXION

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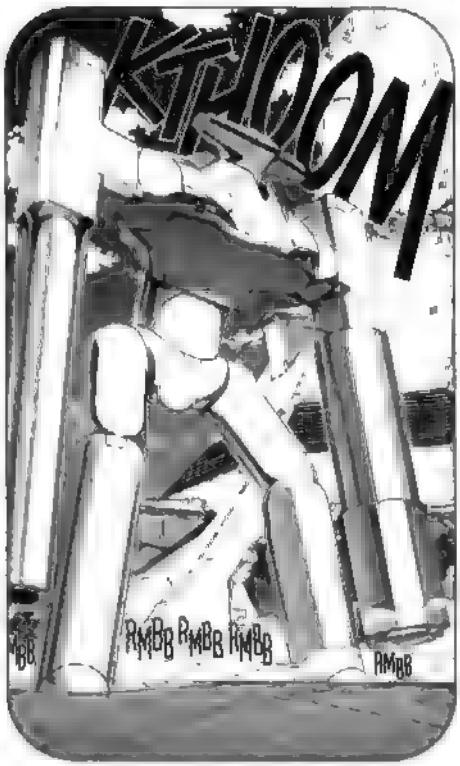
HOICHI "GUN" KANO
High-school ace pilot of the Exaxxion super-robot, now fully dedicated to overthrowing the Riofaldian invasion.

AKANE HINO
A bright, investigative team reporter, she is unrequited love with Hoichi.

HOSUKE KANO
Hoichi's father, a brilliant yet perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion.

ISAKA MIHAGATA
Beautiful android girl protecting and guiding Hoichi as she is linked to the Exaxxion robot.

THE STORY SO FAR...

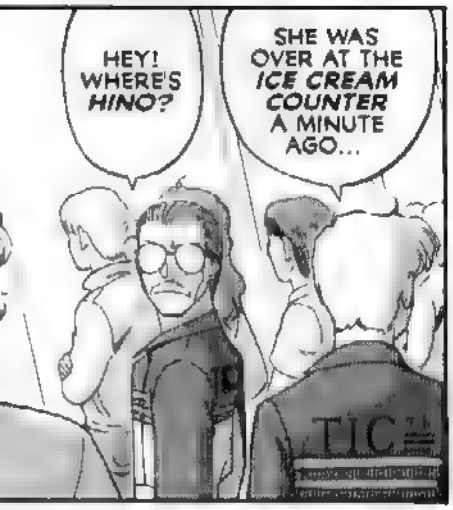


HOICHI "GUN" KANO was content to be an underachieving, rowdy skirt-chaser in high school until an alien invasion forced him into the role of Earth's savior, especially after his close friend, AKANE HINO, was captured! Freeing her only cemented his resolve to fight the Riofaldian army threatening to enslave humanity. With the ISAKA android by his side and his demented father, HOSUKE KANO, trying to call the shots from a protected base of operations, Hoichi hopes to use his Exaxxion super-robot to destroy the Riofaldians' own XXX unit...

STAGE 4.2

KSHANNNG
PSHTT
RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB

WHAT'S THAT THING ON ITS BACK...?
THAT'S A DAMN CANNON! THEY'RE GONNA LAUNCH ANOTHER BOMBARD-MENT!
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT THING COME FROM?
HUMANS! I TOLD YOU, GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS!
OH, GOD...IS ANOTHER SHOCK-WAVE ON THE WAY?


HEY! WHERE'S HINO?
SHE WAS OVER AT THE ICE CREAM COUNTER A MINUTE AGO...

HUH? BUT SHE JUST ATE...! OH, NO, DON'T TELL ME...

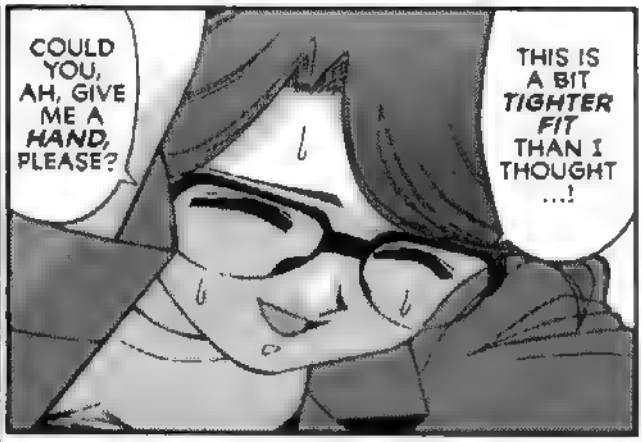
NEW CREW!
ORBIT-ELEVAT SHOP
軌道エレベーターホール店
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? THERE'S ANOTHER ROBOT OUT THERE!
HELL, IF ANOTHER SHOOT-OUT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN, I'M TAKING SHELTER RIGHT NOW!

WHAT FLAVOR WOULD YOU LIKE, MA'AM?
A DOUBLE CHOCOLATE MINT, PLEASE.
LISTEN, THIS IS THE ELEVATOR BASE MAIN HALL, OKAY? THERE ISN'T A SAFER PLACE ON THE WHOLE STATION!
HEY... WEREN'T YOU ON A DIET...?

UH... PROBLEM, HERE...
DID THEY SEND UP ANY MORE SUPPLIES? I'M OUT OF MINT...
HEY, WE COULD BE DEAD IN AN HOUR, SO I'M GOING OUT HAPPY, ALL RIGHT?

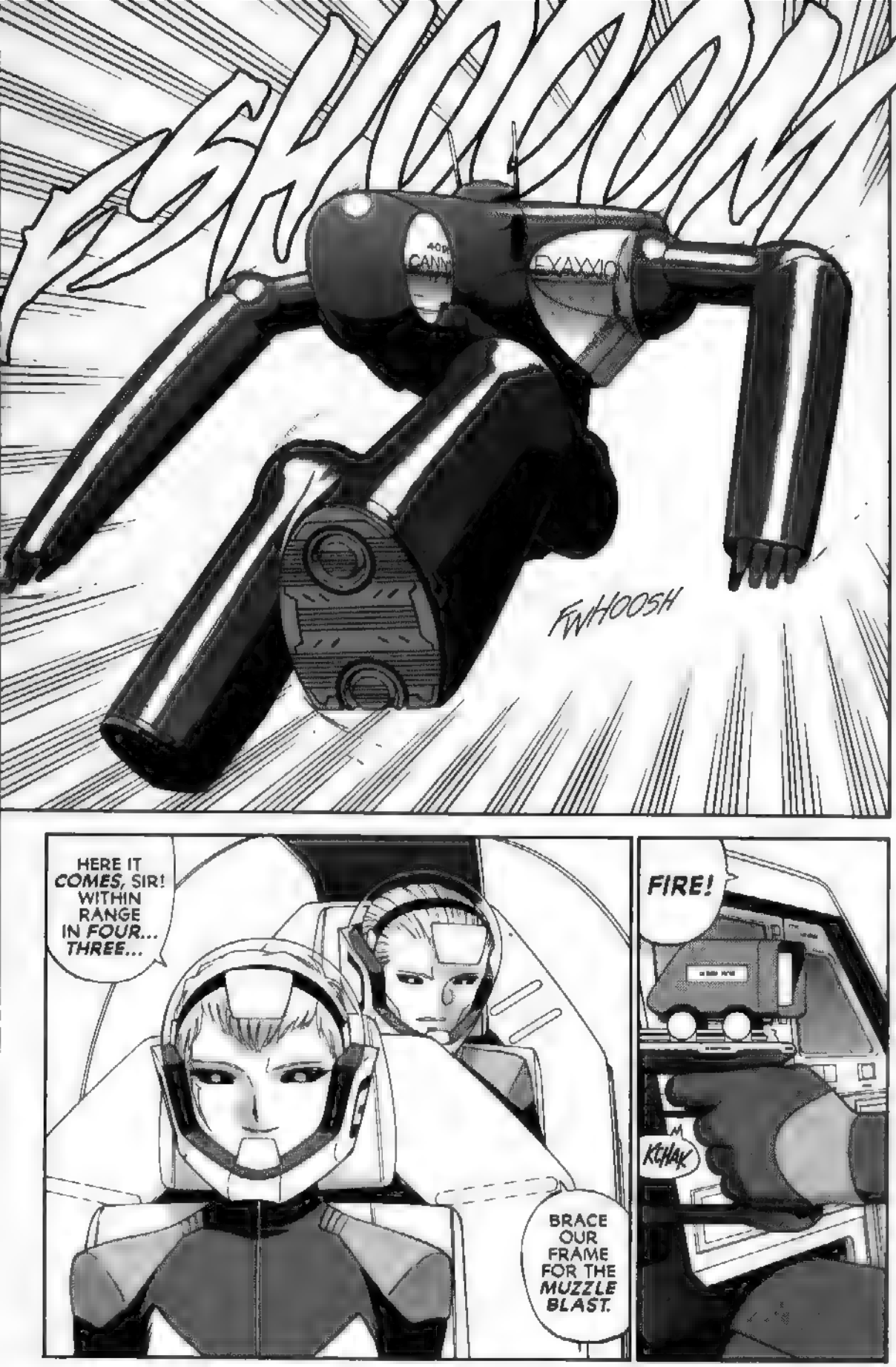
IN THE DUMB-WAITER... UM...
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG ...?

NGKK
HUH ...?


COULD YOU, AH, GIVE ME A HAND, PLEASE?
THIS IS A BIT TIGHTER FIT THAN I THOUGHT ...!

WH-WHERE DID YOU COME FROM ...?
GET OUT OF THERE! WHAT IF A PATROL ROBOT SEES YOU...?

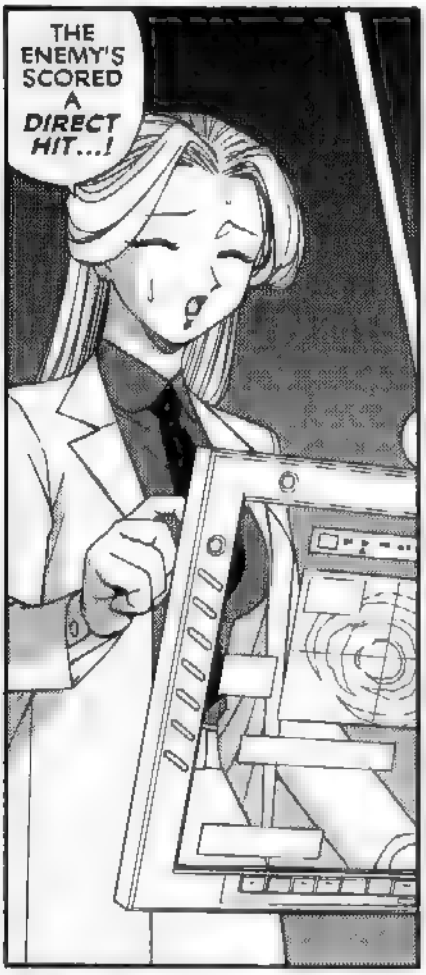
MY BACK... =NNNH=
OUCH!
STILL... THIS WAS WORTH IT...
...I FINALLY MADE IT INTO THE MAIN HALL!
SORRY, BOSS, BUT I HAD TO TRY...!
AH...THE GATE TO THE CENTRAL CONTROL ROOM! IF I CAN FILM SOME VIPS COMING OUT, I MIGHT GET A STORY AFTER ALL.
AND IF THE GUARDS PANIC WHEN THAT ROBOT'S CANNON FIRES, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SLIP INTO THE CONTROL ROOM ITSELF!
BONG♪
ATTENTION, HUMAN GUESTS: THIS IS A CANNON-FIRE ALERT.
PLEASE MOVE AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS AND PREPARE FOR THE SHOCK-WAVE.
WE WILL BE OPENING FIRE ON A TERRORIST ROBOT NOW APPROACHING EL-BASE.
A-4
WHOA... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT...?

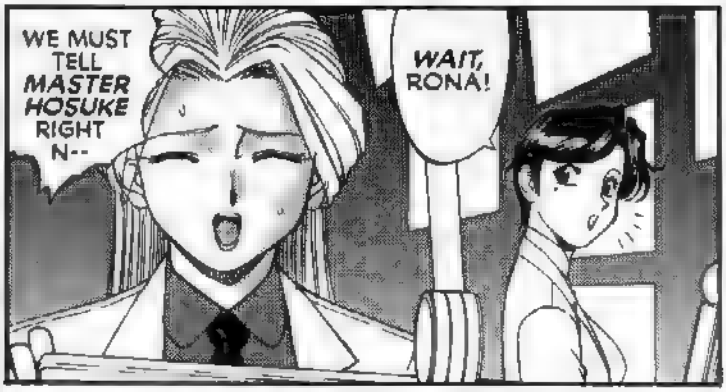

FSHOOOM
EXAXXION
FWHOOSH
HERE IT COMES, SIR! WITHIN RANGE IN FOUR... THREE...
BRACE OUR FRAME FOR THE MUZZLE BLAST.
FIRE!
KTHAK

KCHOOM

WHROOOSH

WHROOM
SPAAAANG

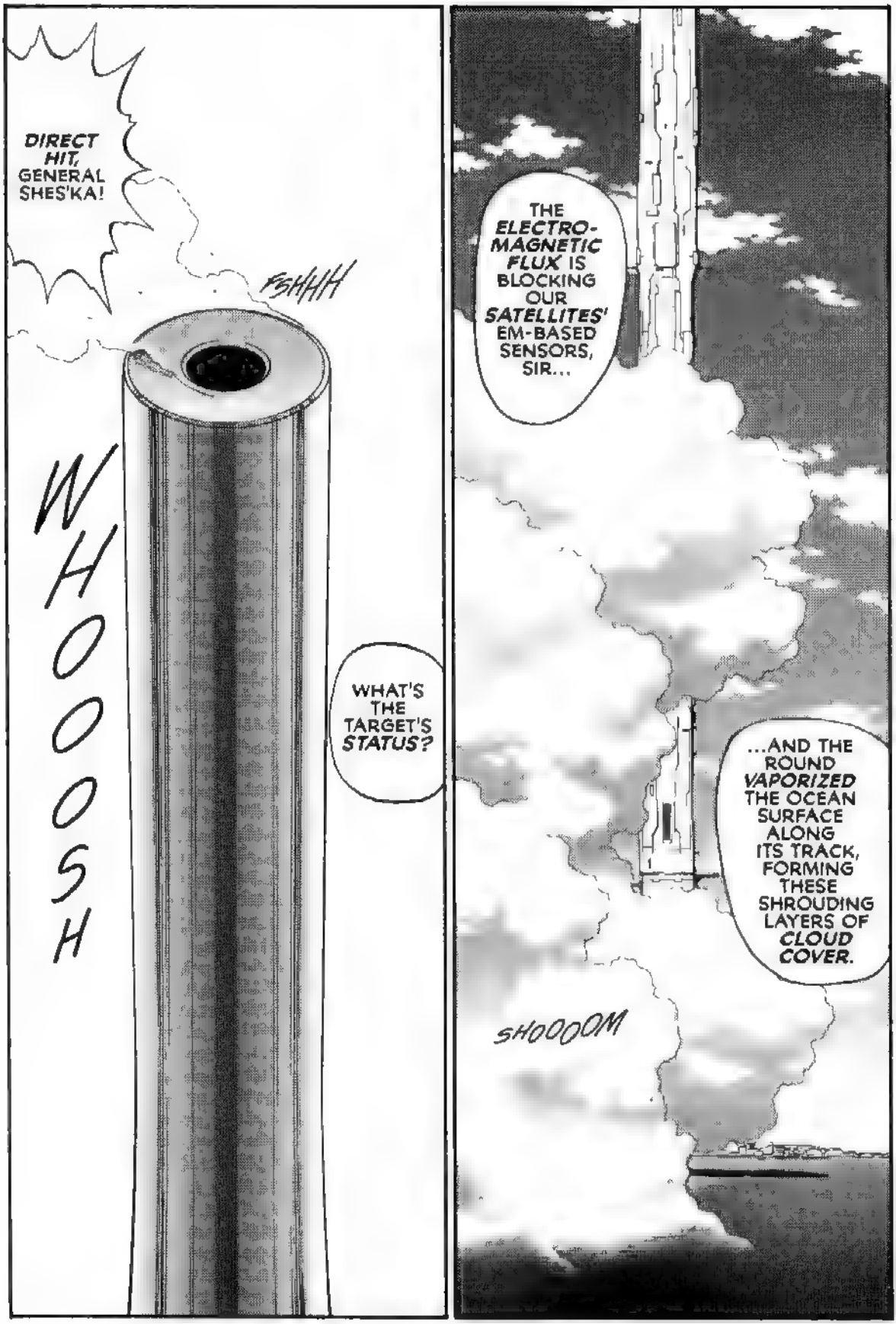

THE ENEMY'S SCORED A *DIRECT HIT...!*


WE MUST TELL *MASTER HOSUKE* RIGHT N--
WAIT, RONA!

B-BUT... EXAXXION'S BEEN *STRUCK!* WE HAVE TO--
YES, BUT CHECK THE ROUND'S TRAJECTORY *AFTER* IMPACT, DEAR...IT *RICOCHETED* OFF THEM!

EXAXXION HAS GROWN STEADILY MORE *POWERFUL* EVER SINCE WE FIRST DEPLOYED IT.

WE'VE BEEN EASING UP THE MAX LIMITS ON THE *XXX UNIT'S OUTPUT* AFTER ANALYZING COMBAT DATA FROM THE LAST FEW ENGAGEMENTS...
...SO EXAXXION CAN FIELD *FAR HIGHER* LEVELS OF GRAVITY AND INERTIAL CONTROL THAN BEFORE! DON'T *WORRY,* RONA!


DIRECT HIT, GENERAL SHES'KA!
FSHHH
WHOOOSH
WHAT'S THE TARGET'S STATUS?
THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FLUX IS BLOCKING OUR SATELLITES' EM-BASED SENSORS, SIR...
...AND THE ROUND VAPORIZED THE OCEAN SURFACE ALONG ITS TRACK, FORMING THESE SHROUDING LAYERS OF CLOUD COVER.
SHOOOOM

WHAT ABOUT OUR REGULAR RADAR?
THOSE CLOUDS ARE TOO ELECTRO-STATICALLY CHARGED, GENERAL... WE'RE IN THE DARK, HERE.
DISENGAGE FROM FIRING MODE!
WHROOOOOOOM
KSHANGG
PSHTT
I

FWHOOSH
UNION

KSHANGG
KSHANGG
KREEEK
SPZZZK

EXAXXION HAS TOUCHED DOWN, SIR! RANGE TO ENEMY ROBOT, FOUR HUNDRED METERS!

PERFECT!

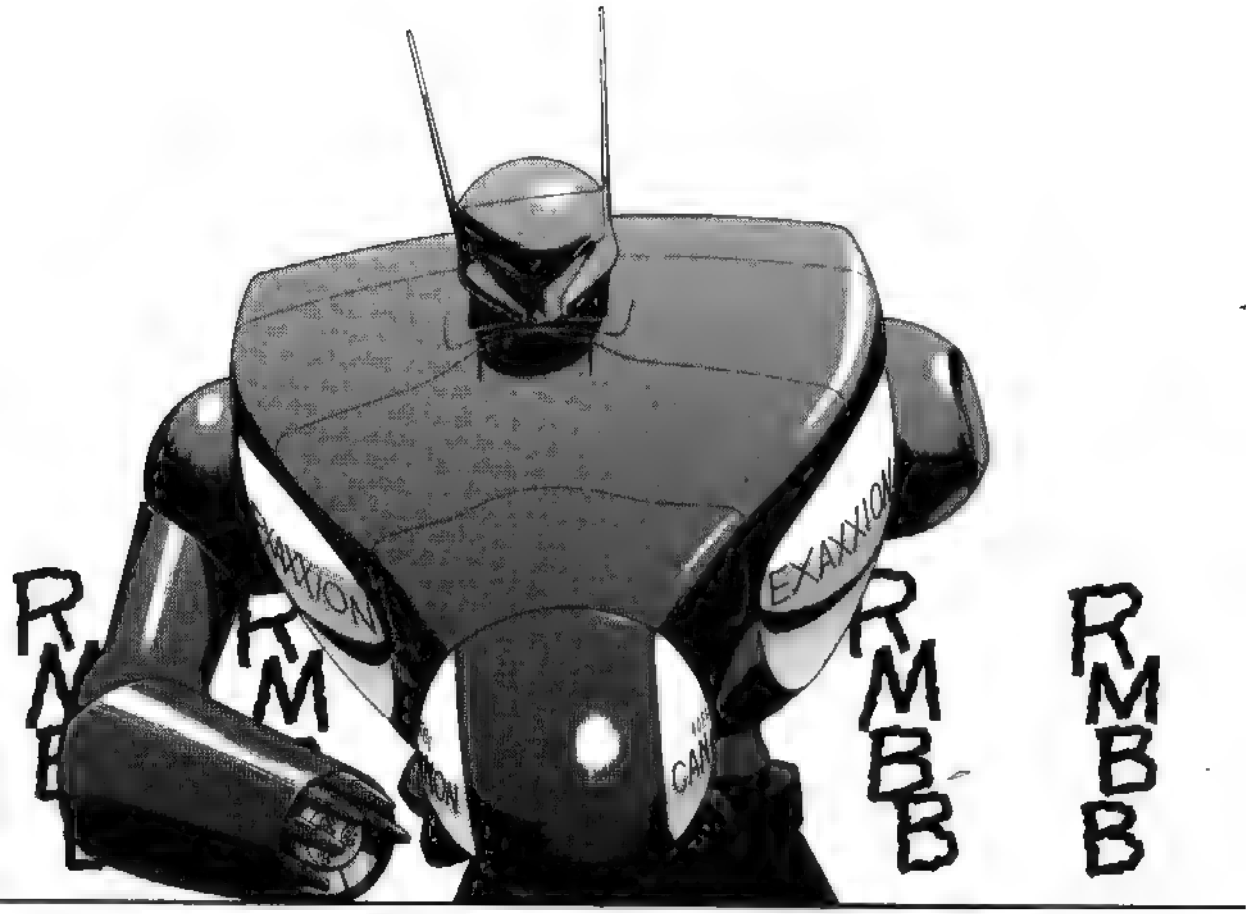
WE'VE LOST EXAXXION'S LEFT ARM! WE CAN'T USE THE 460mm CANNON!

SHIT!

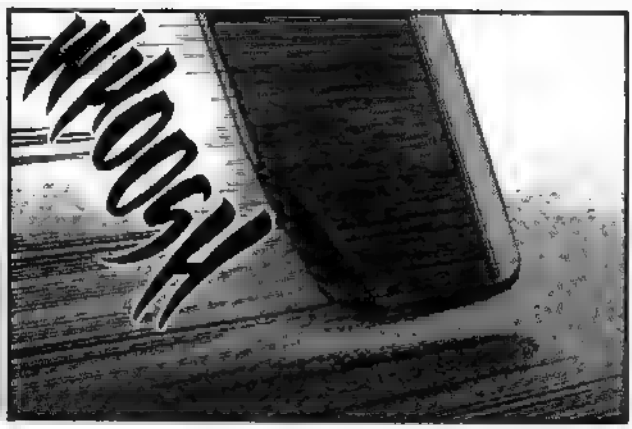
THAT PRECIOUS XXX UNIT AND ITS VAST ANTI-MATTER RESERVOIR, RIGHT HERE BEFORE OUR EYES... SEIZE IT, COLONEL!

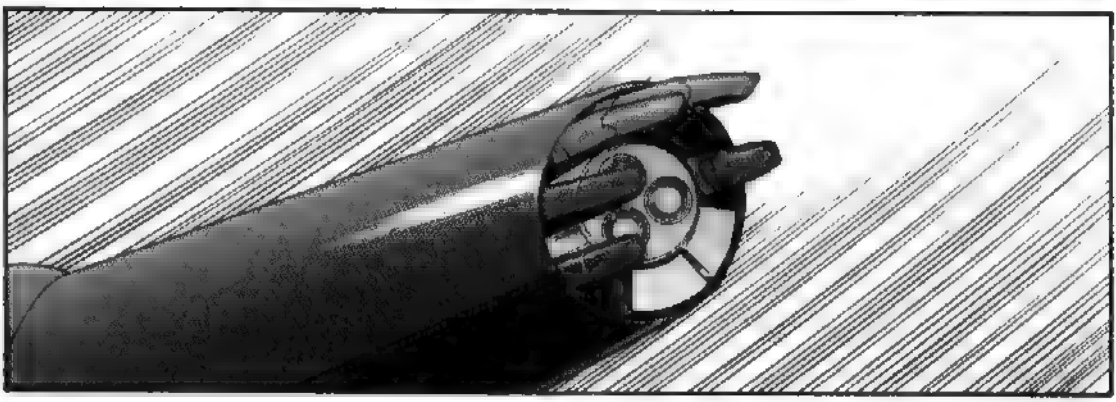
YES, SIR!

STAGE 4.3


RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

DAMN IT! I JUST NEED ONE CHANCE...!

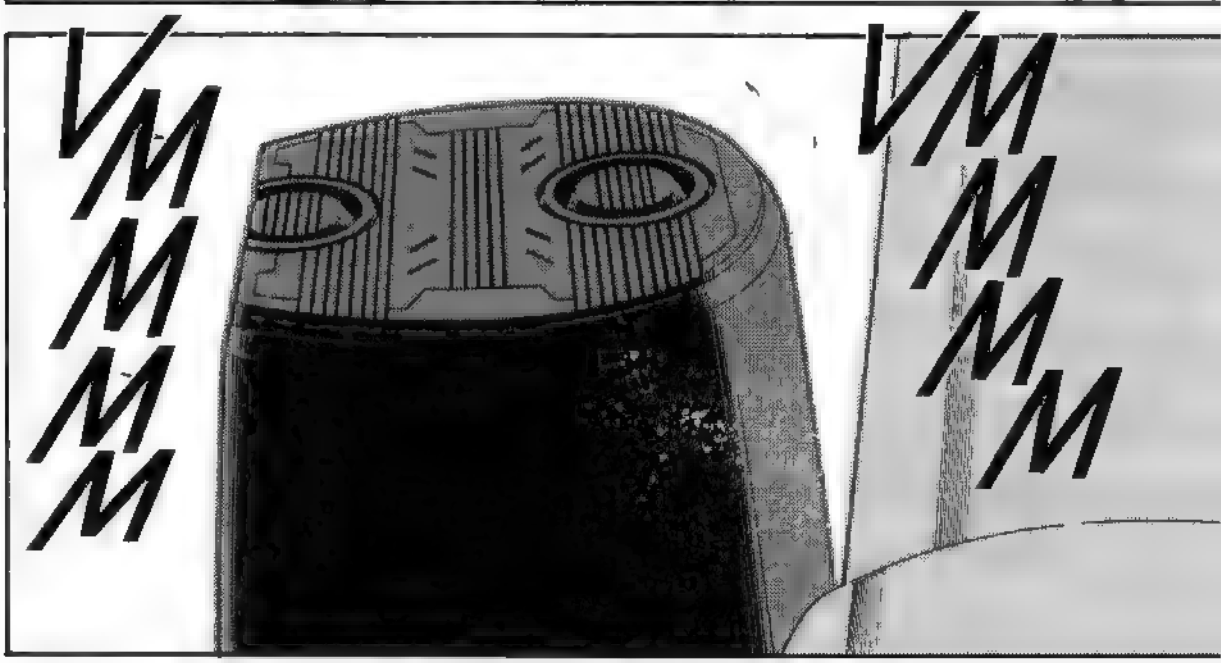

WHOOSH



RMBB
RMBB
VRAAAKK
SPANGG
SPANGG
VRAAAKK
CHOOM
KCHOOM
CHOOM

OUR 88mm ROUNDS DON'T DELIVER ENOUGH KINETIC ENERGY...THEY'RE JUST BOUNCING RIGHT OFF THE TARGET!
THEN LET'S KICK HIS DAMN HEAD IN, ISAKA!
YES, GUN! NOW MAXIMIZING INERTIAL CONTROL TO EXAXXION'S LEGS!
ALL RIGHT!
RMBB
ESHANG
I'M CALLIN' THIS MOVE...
...THE INFINITY KICK!!!
SHOOM
FWOOSH

FWOOM


VMMMM
VMMMM

ISAKA! HOW THE HELL ARE THEY STOPPING US?!
THE ENEMY'S USING AN XXX UNIT, WITH ENERGY OUTPUT EQUAL OR EVEN SUPERIOR TO OUR OWN!
AN XXX UNIT... WHAT THE HELL?! I THOUGHT WE HAD THE ONLY ONE!
THIS IS WHY MASTER HOSUKE WAS SO UPSET, EARLIER...WE HAD DETECTED A POSSIBLE META'AR SIGNATURE ON THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR!
BUT THEY ALMOST CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE AS MUCH ANTI-MATTER ABOARD AS WE DO...
KTHOOM
...SO IF WE CAN DRAG THE FIGHT OUT, WE CAN WIN.
DID YOU SEE, SIR? OUR PEAK ENERGY OUTPUT FAR EXCEEDS THEIRS... THEY'RE NEUTRALIZED!
THEN FINISH THEM, COLONEL!
WHROOOM

SHIINGG

FWOOSH

VRMMM

SCRAAA

H-HEY! WHY THE HELL DID WE JUST FALL OVER?!
THEY USED THEIR CANNON'S ELECTROMAGNETIC ACCELERATORS TO APPLY A MASSIVE PROPULSIVE SURGE...AND THEN THEY TWISTED THE SURGE'S VECTOR, YOU SEE?
HUH? SO... THEY JUST PULLED AND PUSHED US, RIGHT?
YES, GUN... AND IT SEEMS THAT THEIR RESPONSE TIMES ARE FASTER THAN WE CAN COPE WITH, I'M AFRAID.
OF COURSE, THAT CANNON'S ACCELERATORS ARE BLEEDING-EDGE RIOFALDIAN TECHNOLOGY... OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE!
SAVE THE DAMN PRAISE FOR LATER, OKAY? HOW DO WE BEAT THIS THING?!
KSHANGG KSHANGG
RIGHT

PSHINK

KLANG KLANG KCHANGG

WHAT'S *THAT?!* WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY *DOING?!*

WE'RE BEING SURROUNDED BY *CABLES!* WE HAVE TO ESCAPE *NOW,* OR--

FSHOOM FSHOOM FSHOOM FSHOOM FSHOOM FSHOOM

THEN LET'S DO A *GRAVITY JUMP!* WE'LL TAKE THEM *WITH* US!

CHONKK CHONKK CHONKK CHONKK CHONKK CHONKK

RMBB

RMBB

WE CAN'T *LIFT OFF!* EXAXXION IS PUTTING OUT *85 GEES* OF REVERSED GRAVITATION... *90* GEES...AND WE'RE *STILL* FASTENED TO THE RUNWAY!

THOSE *CABLES* ARE GENERATING ONE HELL OF A FIELD, HUH? THEN GIMME *MORE GEES!*

THE *COCKPIT* AND *PASSENGER COMPARTMENT* CAN'T BE SHIELDED FROM ANY HIGHER G-FORCES, GUN...!

GLRKK!

G-GUN... WHAT ARE YOU *DOING...?* FEEL LIKE... I'M GONNA *THROW UP...!*

AND *MOM'S* AL-READY...

H-HUH?! *ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?*

OKAY. *SHUT DOWN* THE GRAVITY JUMP.

ISAKA... CAN WE STILL USE THE *EXA-CANNON ...?*

YES, BUT IT'S CURRENTLY TRAINED ON THE ANCHORAGE'S MAIN BASE...***MASSIVE*** HUMAN CASUALTIES WOULD RESULT.

NOT THAT ***FIRING IT*** WOULD MATERIALLY AID OUR ESCAPE, IN ANY EVENT.

DAMN IT...

AND OUR ARM IS PINNED DOWN BY THEIR ***INERTIAL CONTROL,*** SO WE CAN'T SHOOT OUT THOSE ***CABLES.***

THE ENEMY IS ***SUPPRESSED,*** SIR.

WELL DONE, COLONEL HULAN'KI.

WE STILL HAVE ***AMPLE*** ANTI-MATTER RESERVES LEFT, SIR.

YES, OF COURSE... WE'RE ONLY TAPPING THE ***XXX UNIT*** FOR PERIODIC ***PEAK ENERGY BURSTS.***

SO...SHOULD WE MAINTAIN OUR POSITION, AND LIFT OUT EXAXXION *AND* THE RUNWAY SECTION ALONG WITH US?

EXACTLY, COLONEL.

ATTENTION, *PUBLIC AFFAIRS* DIVISION! BROADCAST *FOOTAGE* OF THIS ENGAGEMENT WORLD-WIDE, *IMMEDIATELY!*

THIS IS *CERTAIN* TO BREAK THE MORALE OF THOSE WRETCHED *DISSIDENTS!*

WE'RE UPLOADING THE *VIDEO FEED,* GENERAL.

NOW *BROAD-CASTING,* SIR!

THIS JUST IN: WE HAVE WORD THAT THE GIANT ROBOT KNOWN AS "EXAXXION" HAS BEEN CAPTURED!

DBC NEWS

LIO-ZONY

MORE ON THIS STORY AS WE--

THE BRUTAL TERRORIST MECHA, WHICH HAS COMMITTED A SERIES OF MASS ATROCITIES SINCE ITS FIRST APPEARANCE, HAS FINALLY BEEN BROUGHT DOWN!

ANN NEWS

ZONY

JKV NEWS

THIS IS A FLASH NEWS REPORT! THE CANNON ROBOT'S RAMPAGE IS OVER!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM-MING FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN!

JKV NEWS

THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERNMENT'S ROBOT, **DAGUNOV ONE**, HAS DEFEATED THE **TERRORIST ROBOT**...

THIS **FOOTAGE** COMES TO YOU LIVE FROM THE SCENE.

EXAXXION HAS BEEN TAKEN UNDER CUSTODY AT THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE OFF HAWAII.

THE **SILVER ROBOT** IS THE RIOFALDIAN MILITARY'S NEWLY DEPLOYED ASSET, **DAGUNOV ONE.**

REPORTEDLY, THIS POWERFUL MACHINE USED ITS SUPERIOR **INERTIAL AND GRAVITY CONTROL** TO UTTERLY OVERWHELM **EXAXXION!**

SHALL WE **REFUTE** IT, SIR? I CAN WHIP SOME-THING UP...

NAHH... LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS, FIRST.

THE TERROR IS FINALLY **ENDED**, THANKS TO THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERNMENT'S DEDICATION TO **WORLD PEACE**...

WHAT THE HELL *IS* THIS CRAP?

THEY CAUGHT ***KANO!***

JUST LIKE ***THAT?*** AFTER ALL HIS ***BIG TALK...?***

OHMI-GOD... THAT'S ***SUCH*** A BUMMER!

THEY'VE ***GOTTA*** BE LYING!

I ***KNEW*** THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

DAMN, ISAKA... DON'T WE HAVE *ANYTHING ELSE* WE CAN USE?

WELL... JUST *MYSELF*... AND YOUR *GUNNER SUIT.*

HUH... SO WHAT ARE THIS SUIT'S, Y'KNOW, *MAXIMUM SPECS...?*

WELL, IF YOUR GUNNER SUIT IS RECONFIGURED TO *BATTLE MODE,* YOU WOULD GO INTO ACTION WITH AT LEAST *TEN TIMES* ITS POWER IN STANDARD MODE...

HOLY SHIT! SO...IS THAT ENOUGH POWER TO *NEGATE* THE 'FALDIES' INERTIAL CONTROL?

AH...THAT'S *DOUBTFUL,* AT BEST. BUT WITH YOUR *LIMITED MASS,* YOU CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY ESCAPE THEIR *GRAVITATIONAL CONTROL.*

ALL *RIGHT!* WE GOT A *PLAN,* HERE!

OF COURSE, WE DON'T HAVE ANY *REAL-WORLD* DATA ON BATTLE MODE DEPLOYMENT, BUT--

BAMM

IF WE CAN JUST CUT THOSE FRIGGIN' *CABLES,* WE CAN *GRAVITY JUMP* RIGHT OUTTA HERE!

SCREW IT! IF I'M GONNA *LOSE,* I'M GONNA GO OUT *SWINGING!*

PSHNKK

GUN ...?

AKANE... MRS. HINO... I NEED YOU TO PLEASE BEAR WITH ALL THIS FOR A LITTLE LONGER.

ER, WHAT ABOUT ME...?

TIME TO GO *FACE THE ENEMY.*

FSHNKK

G-GUN... .....

AKANE... IF I COME OUT OF THIS *ALIVE*... IF WE *ALL* GET OUTTA HERE SAFELY...

YES ...?

NAH, I'LL TELL YOU *LATER*.

H-*HEY!* WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO *SAY*, GUN...?

DON'T *WORRY*... I'M A *HERO*, AREN'T I?

ISAKA! LOOK AFTER THEM, ALL RIGHT?

OF COURSE!

"LOOK AFTER"...? GUN... WHAT ARE YOU...

PSHNKK

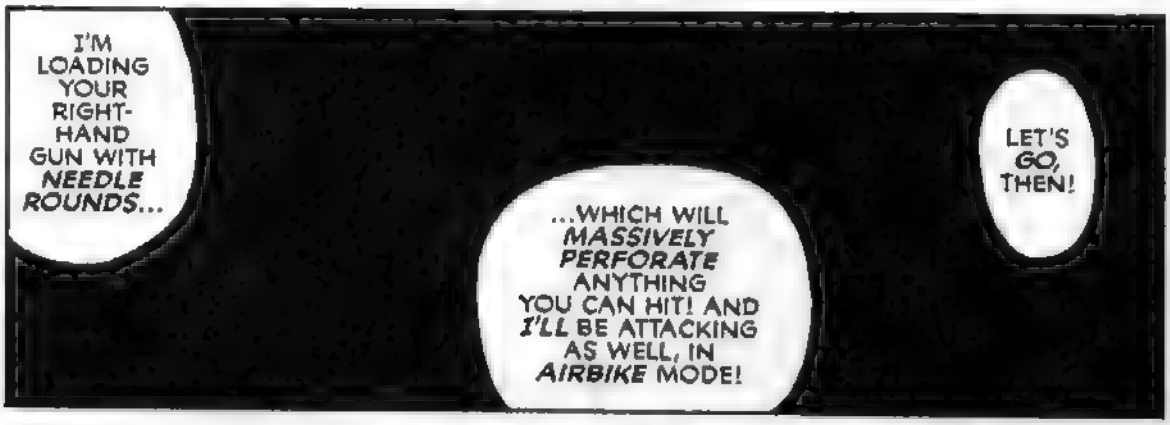
EXAXXION

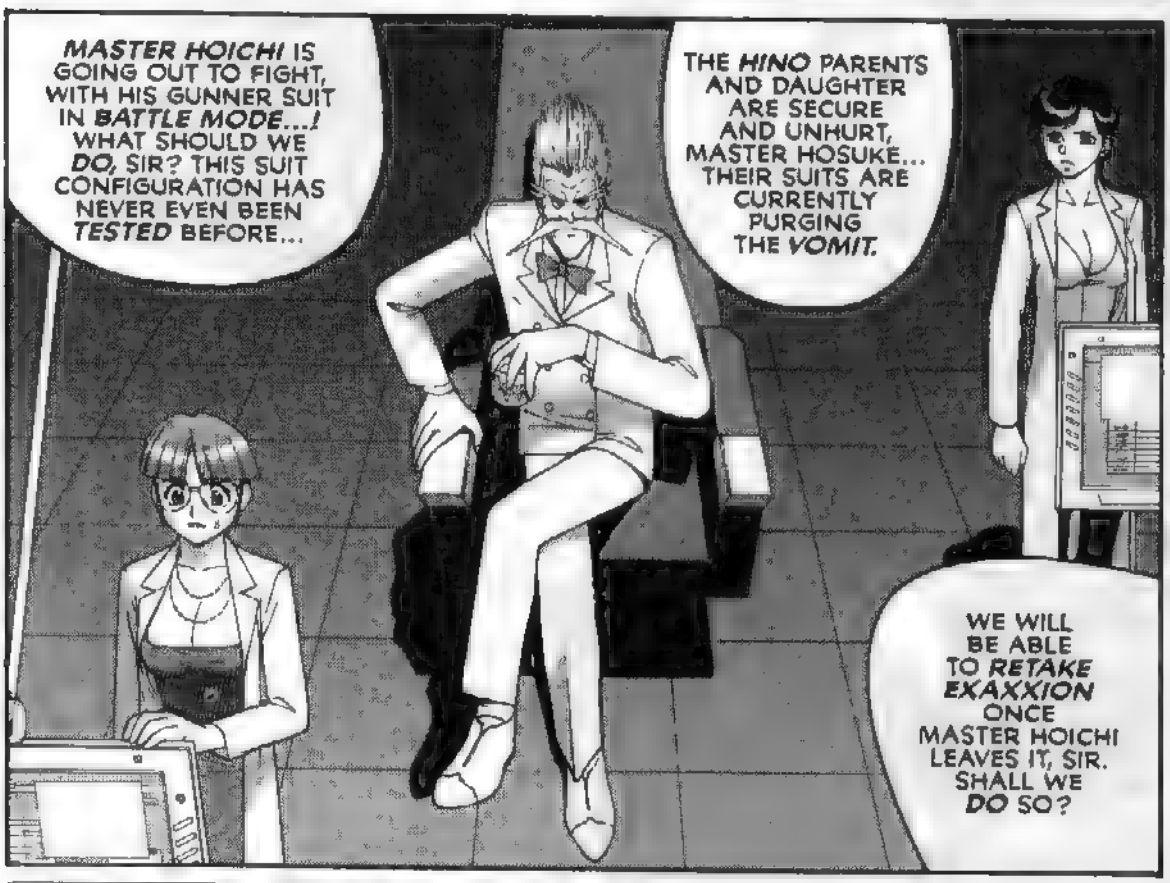
OH, MY GOD... *GUN...?!*

TO BE CONTINUED...!

STAGE 4.4 art and story by KENICHI SONODA

ISAKA... DO I GET ANY NEW WEAPONS WITH THIS GUNNER SUIT UPGRADE?
THE SUIT'S TWO PISTOLS REMAIN THE SAME, I'M AFRAID.
EXAXXION
BUT I CAN SET YOUR POWER AND SHIELDING AT MAXIMUM, AND BOOST YOUR REACTION SPEED CONSIDERABLY.
BUT HOW AM I GONNA CUT THOSE WIRES--?!


I'M LOADING YOUR RIGHT-HAND GUN WITH NEEDLE ROUNDS...
...WHICH WILL MASSIVELY PERFORATE ANYTHING YOU CAN HIT! AND I'LL BE ATTACKING AS WELL, IN AIRBIKE MODE!
LET'S GO, THEN!


MASTER HOICHI IS GOING OUT TO FIGHT, WITH HIS GUNNER SUIT IN BATTLE MODE...! WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SIR? THIS SUIT CONFIGURATION HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN TESTED BEFORE...
THE HINO PARENTS AND DAUGHTER ARE SECURE AND UNHURT, MASTER HOSUKE... THEIR SUITS ARE CURRENTLY PURGING THE VOMIT.
WE WILL BE ABLE TO RETAKE EXAXXION ONCE MASTER HOICHI LEAVES IT, SIR. SHALL WE DO SO?

HOICHI "GUN" KANO, encased in his nearly indestructible gunner suit, is now prepared to face the alien menace head-on in an attempt to free his crippled Exaxxion robot...

SET UP THE OPERATION... BUT *WAIT* FOR MY COMMAND.

YES, SIR!

SUPPLEMENTAL *NANO-MATERIAL* LOADED... WE'RE READY!

OKAY, THEN... PUT MY SUIT INTO *BATTLE MODE,* ISAKA!

YES, HOICHI.

ISAKA

SHINGG

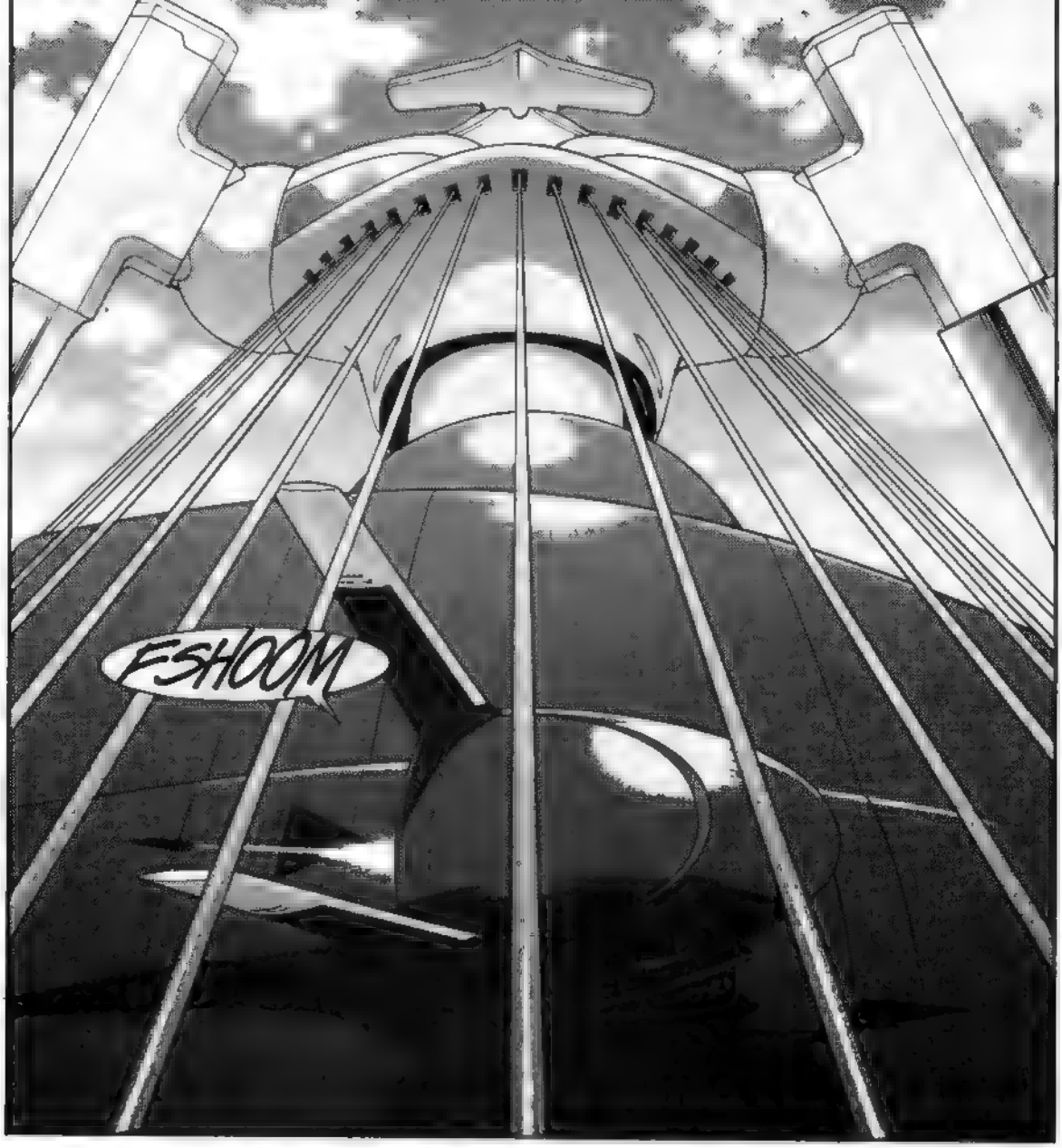
ISAKA

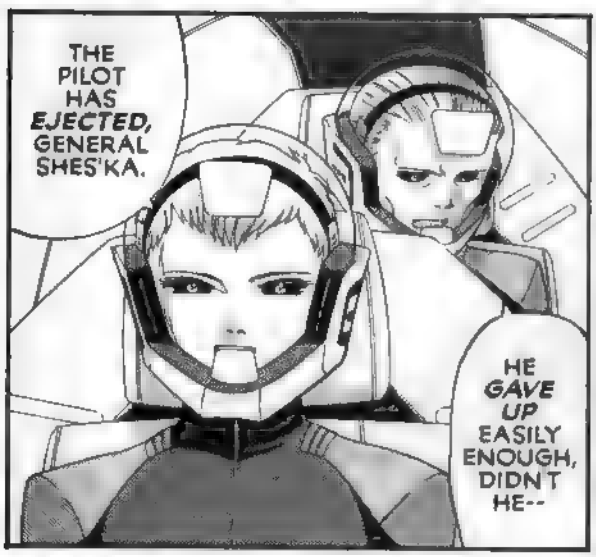
PSHTT

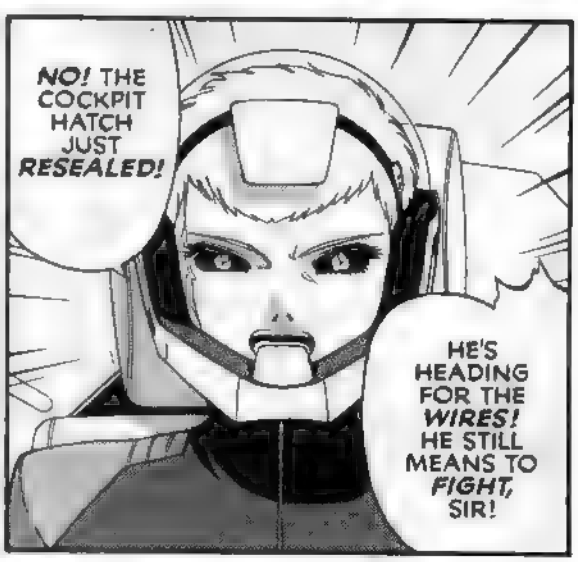
HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the Exaxxion super-robot for humanity's defense.

EXAXX
THNK
K

RRMMBBB
VRMMM
VRMMM
LET'S GO!


FSHOOM


THE PILOT HAS *EJECTED,* GENERAL SHES'KA.
HE *GAVE UP* EASILY ENOUGH, DIDN'T HE--


NO! THE COCKPIT HATCH JUST *RESEALED!*
HE'S HEADING FOR THE *WIRES!* HE STILL MEANS TO *FIGHT,* SIR!

SHINGG
WHOOM
FSHANGG
GKRAKK
VREEE
FNSHH
SNAPP
FNSHH
THEY'RE CUTTING THE WIRES, SIR!
SEND IN ALL AVAILABLE ROBOTS AND UFOS!

THE PILOT AND THE AIRBIKE SEEM TO BE OPERATING SEPARATELY, SIR.
CONTROL CENTER! I WANT THEM BOTH TAKEN, DEAD OR ALIVE!
THNKK
FSHINGG
VWIP
SPANGG SPANGG SPANGG SPANGG

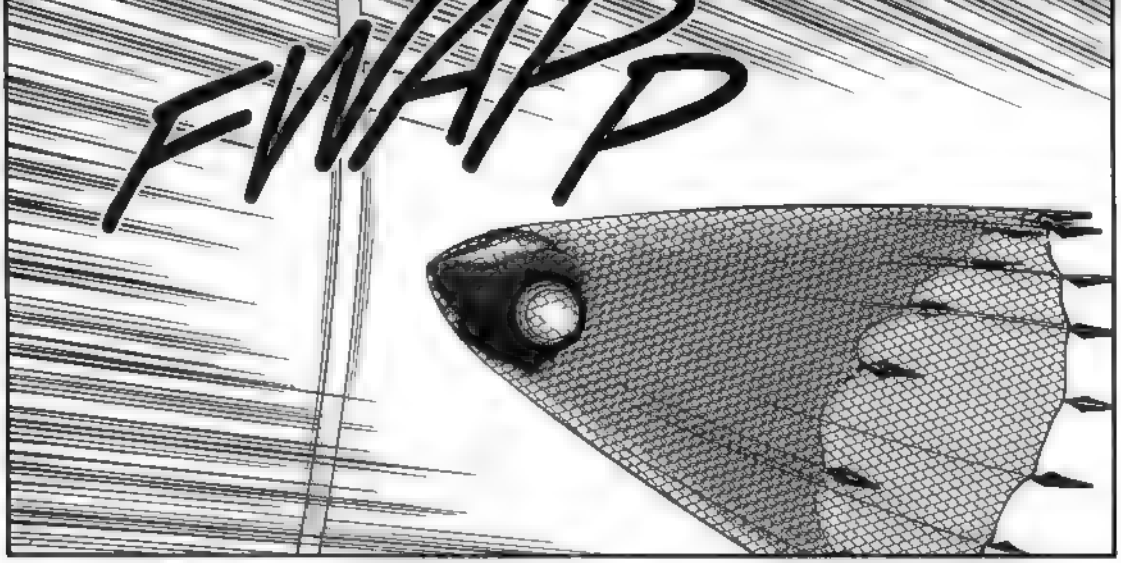
Hoichi wields a fifty-caliber, magnetic, linear accelerator which fires armor-piercing rounds at Mach 8.

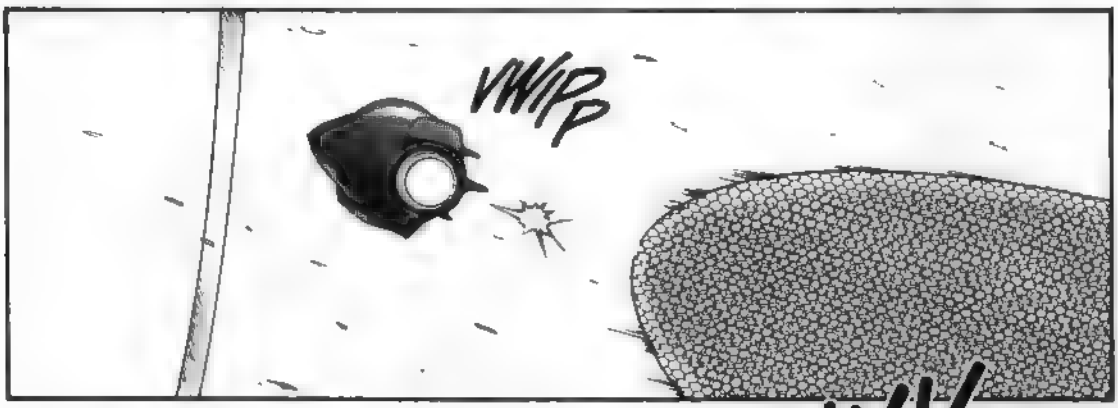
THOOM THOOM THOOM
SHING
FSHWKK

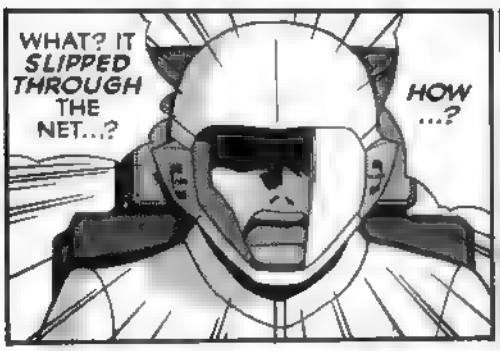
SKREEK
HNNH
SHRKK
A-D LINE CLOSED
HEY! IT'S THAT BLACK-SUITED GUY! AND HE'S OUT THERE ALL ALONE!
ARE YOU SURE? HE LOOKS DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW...
NO, IT'S HIM! HE JUST CAME OUTTA THAT ROBOT'S HEAD!
SILENCE, HUMANS! AND GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS, OR I'LL OPEN FIRE!
WHAT'S THAT MISSILE THINGIE DOING?
HEY, LOOK! HE'S GRABBING ALL OF THOSE ROBOTS AT ONCE!

FWHOOSH
SKRKK
KRAK
SKRAKK
OH, YEAH! THIS IS MUCH BETTER!

SKRANGG
SKRANGG
FISHING
SHOOM
KEEP FIRING! PIN THE TARGET DOWN!
DEPLOY THE NET!

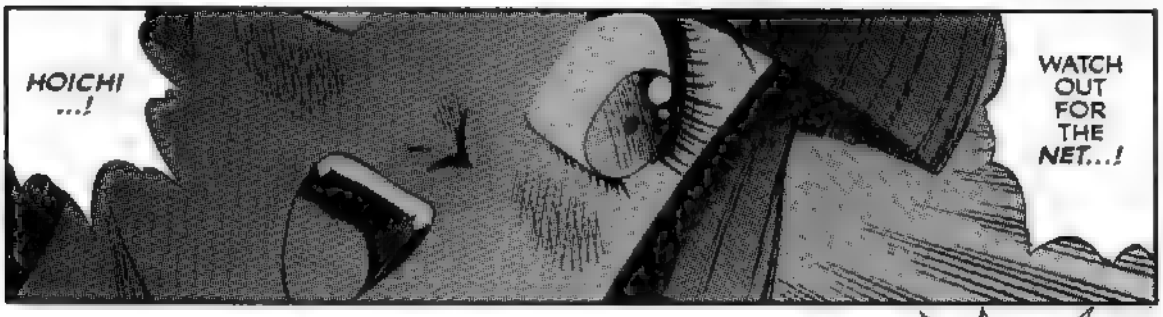

FWAP


VWIP


WHAT? IT SLIPPED THROUGH THE NET...?
HOW ...?

NKK
UGH

SHRAGG



ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful, morphing android girl, protecting and guiding Hoichi as she's linked to the Exaxxion robot.

SK-LIKK
I'M OKAY, ISAKA!
JUST KEEP CUTTING THE DAMN WIRES!
I WILL.
VRRMBB
HGRKK
W-WHAT THE HELL..?! FEELS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO CRUSH ME...!
THEY'RE USING FOCUSED GRAVITY CONTROL ON YOUR GUNNER SUIT! YOU'RE IN DANGER-- YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THERE!
I CAN'T MOVE--!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

CHARACTER PROFILE:
RONA OBERSBACH

AGE: 27
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 15
HEIGHT: 5'4"
CHEST (measured around breasts): 40"
CHEST (measured underneath breasts): 28"
WAIST: 23"
HIPS: 34"
WEIGHT: 117 lbs

*(Named with a nod to the gun manufacturer **Röhm,** and its production facility in **Obersbach,** Germany.)*

The second oldest "Hosuke sister," after Ryoko Tanegashima, and the third to join Hosuke Kano's staff. Until Kano spotted Rona and recruited her for his operation, she was a university professor, specializing in the research and design of corporate security and defense systems. She went on to perfect the elaborate and impressive security systems guarding the Exaxxion Project's main base.

art and story by KENICHI SONODA

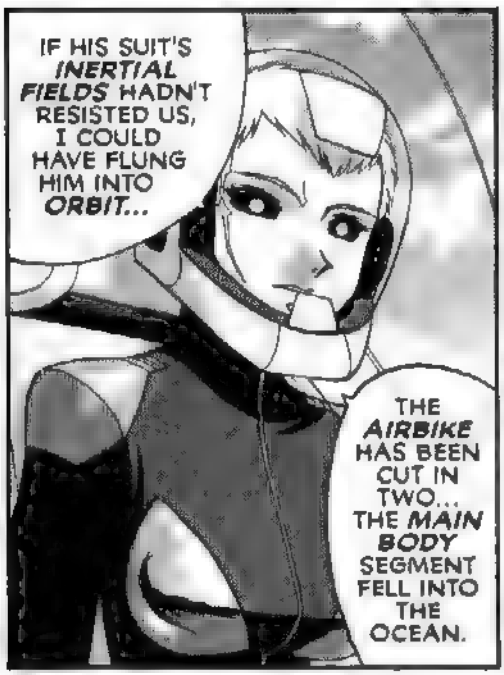
HOICHI KANO - In his powerful gunner suit, Hoichi fights the alien menace head-on in an attempt to free his crippled Exaxxion robot.

WHRAM
NGAAA!!
I CAN FEEL IT-- THEY'RE TURNING ME--!
FSHOOM

HOICHI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HOICHI?!
CAN YOU HEAR M--
SPAK
SPAK
IT'S WORKING! THE 300mm ROUNDS ARE DAMAGING THE TARGET!
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
QUICKLY-- SEND IN THE TERMINAL DRONE BLADE!
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
SHOOM
SHKK

FSHANG
IT'S BEEN *CUT IN TWO!* MAINTAIN SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON *BOTH* PIECES!
THAT'S TRANSFORM-ABLE *NANO-MATERIAL*... IT'LL *SELF-REPAIR* IF WE DON'T STOP IT!
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM
SPANG

KLANGG
FSHHHH
I APPLIED REVERSED AND HORIZONTAL GRAVITY VECTORS TO THE ENEMY PILOT, SIR. HE'S BEEN DRIVEN INTO THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR TOWER, AT A POINT SIX KILOMETERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL.


IF HIS SUIT'S *INERTIAL FIELDS* HADN'T RESISTED US, I COULD HAVE FLUNG HIM INTO *ORBIT*...
THE *AIRBIKE* HAS BEEN CUT IN TWO... THE *MAIN BODY* SEGMENT FELL INTO THE OCEAN.

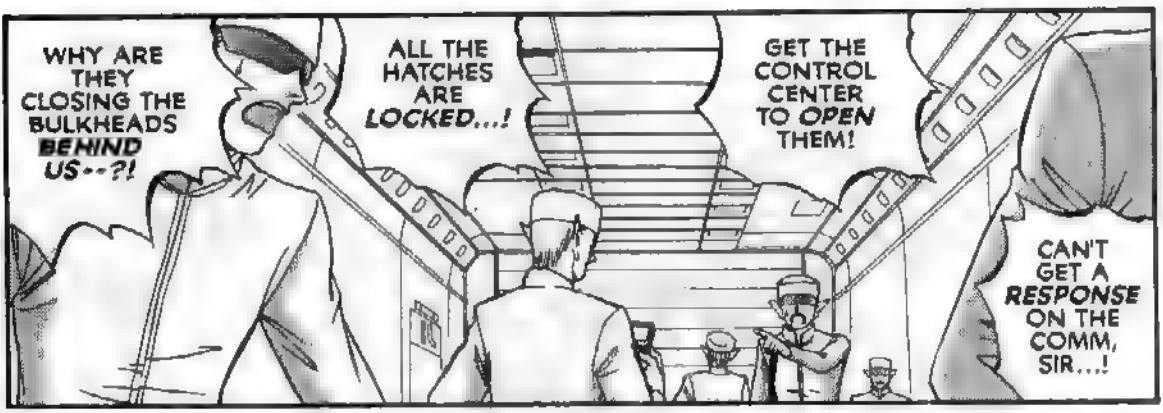
ALL FORCES, REMAIN ON ALERT UNTIL WE'VE SECURED *EVERY* ENEMY UNIT.
DISPATCH A *GASTA'AF* HEAVY TRANSPORT FOR ENEMY *RECOVERY*.

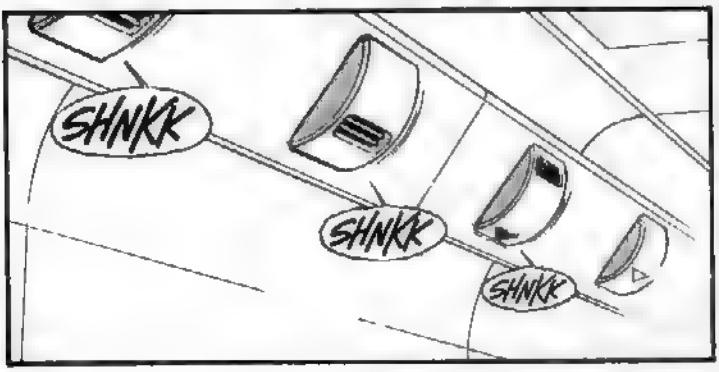
WAOKK
SKAAK
KLUD
KLUD
KLUD
KLUD
THNKK
THNKK
KTHNKK

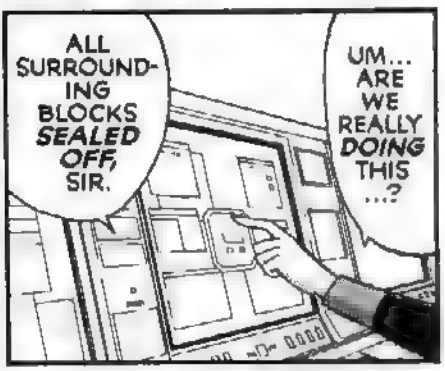
The nano-technology in Hoichi's suit can create a fifty-caliber, magnetic, linear accelerator, which fires armor-piercing rounds at Mach 8.

HAHH ...?
HEY! WHERE'D HE GO?!
THE ENEMY PILOT IS INSIDE THE ELEVATOR...? WHAT LEVEL IS HE ON?
THE ENEMY COMBATANT IS IN BLOCK 52, WEST FACE SECTION 21... NO, HE'S ON THE MOVE...!
WE'RE UNABLE TO PINPOINT HIS EXACT LOCATION, SIR!
TERMINAL DRONES AND BARUCHAD'D CAN'T STOP HIM! WE'VE LOST TWELVE UNITS ALREADY... NO, FIFTEEN!
CORREC-TION! SEVEN-TEEN UNITS DOWN!
HE'S BEEN SPOTTED MOVING DOWN SHAFT FIVE! ALL UNITS, DEPLOY A-LEVEL ARMAMENT!
NO!
A-LEVEL WEAPONRY WON'T EVEN SCRATCH HIM!
SEAL OFF ALL THE BLOCKS SURROUNDING HIM, AND PUMP IN RIGIDIFI-CATION FLUID!
VREEEE
WHSHH

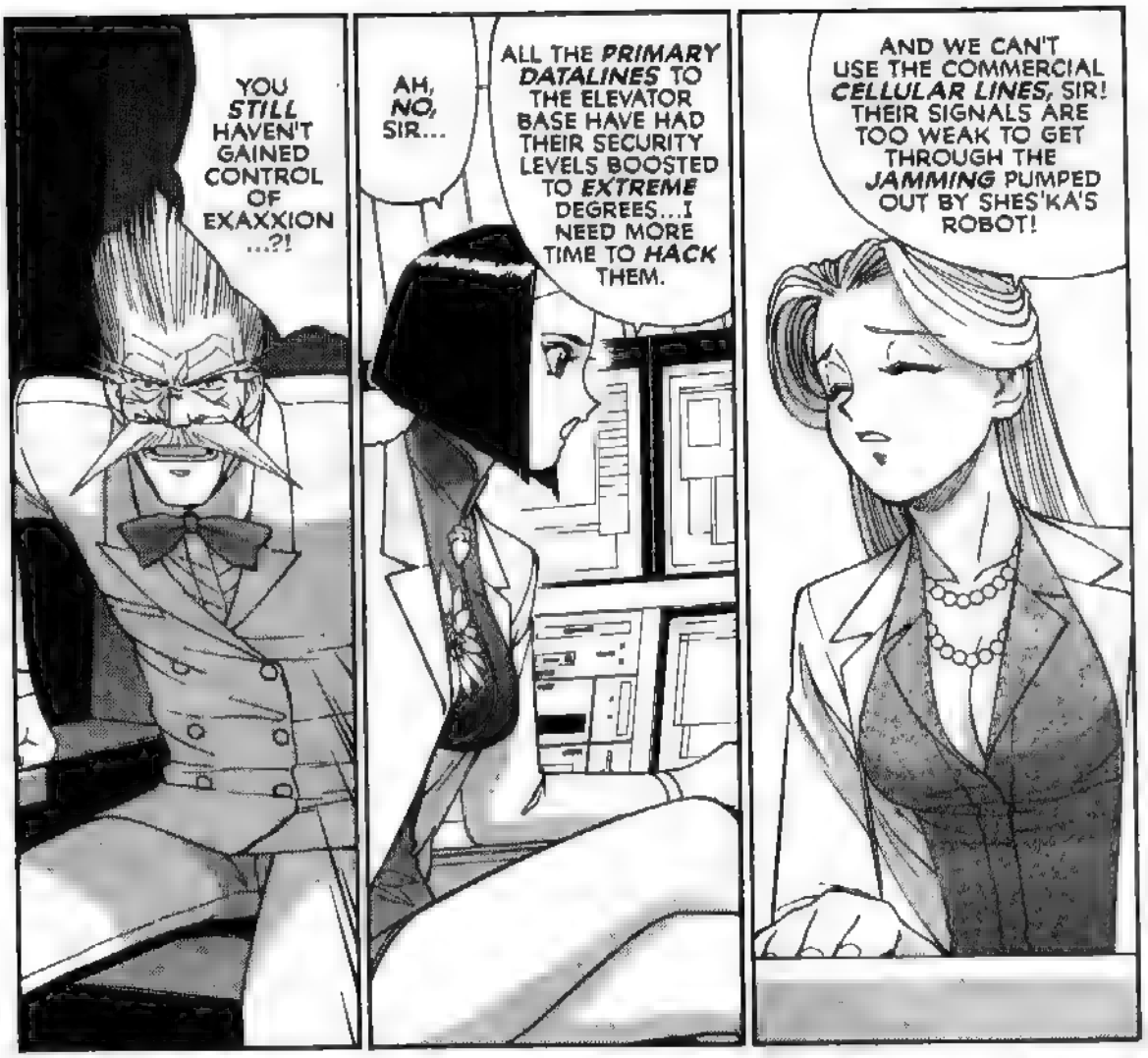
WHSHH
THNKK
AH-!
VRRMM
THNKK
HUH ?!
SLAMM
KLANGG
PSHNKK
KCHAK

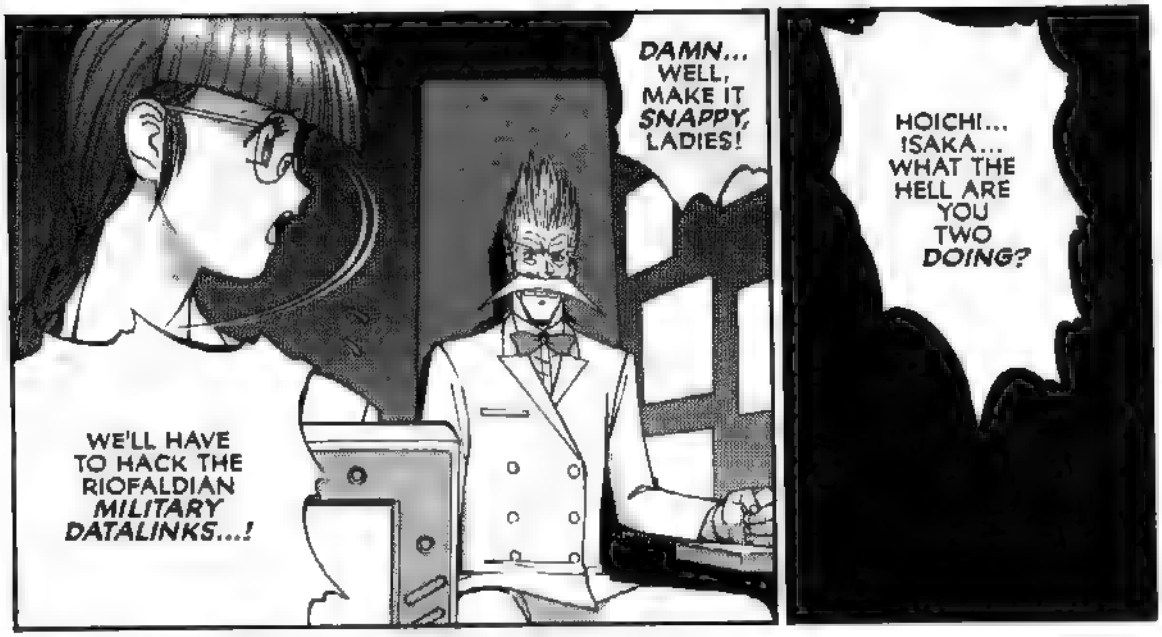

WHY ARE THEY CLOSING THE BULKHEADS BEHIND US--?!
ALL THE HATCHES ARE LOCKED...!
GET THE CONTROL CENTER TO OPEN THEM!
CAN'T GET A RESPONSE ON THE COMM, SIR...!


SHNKK
SHNKK
SHNKK


ALL SURROUND-ING BLOCKS SEALED OFF, SIR.
UM... ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS ...?

FIFTY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE ARE IN THERE, SIR--
GENERAL SHES'KA SUPPORTS MY DECISION!
CONSIDER THIS TO BE HIS DIRECT ORDER!
Y-YES...
YES, SIR...
FSHOOM
RMBBRMBB
RMBBRMBB
GYAA!
WHAT'S THAT --?!
WHOOM
OH SHIT!
THE BLOCKS ARE FULLY FLOODED, SIR.
TRANSMIT THE RIGIDIFI-CATION PULSE!

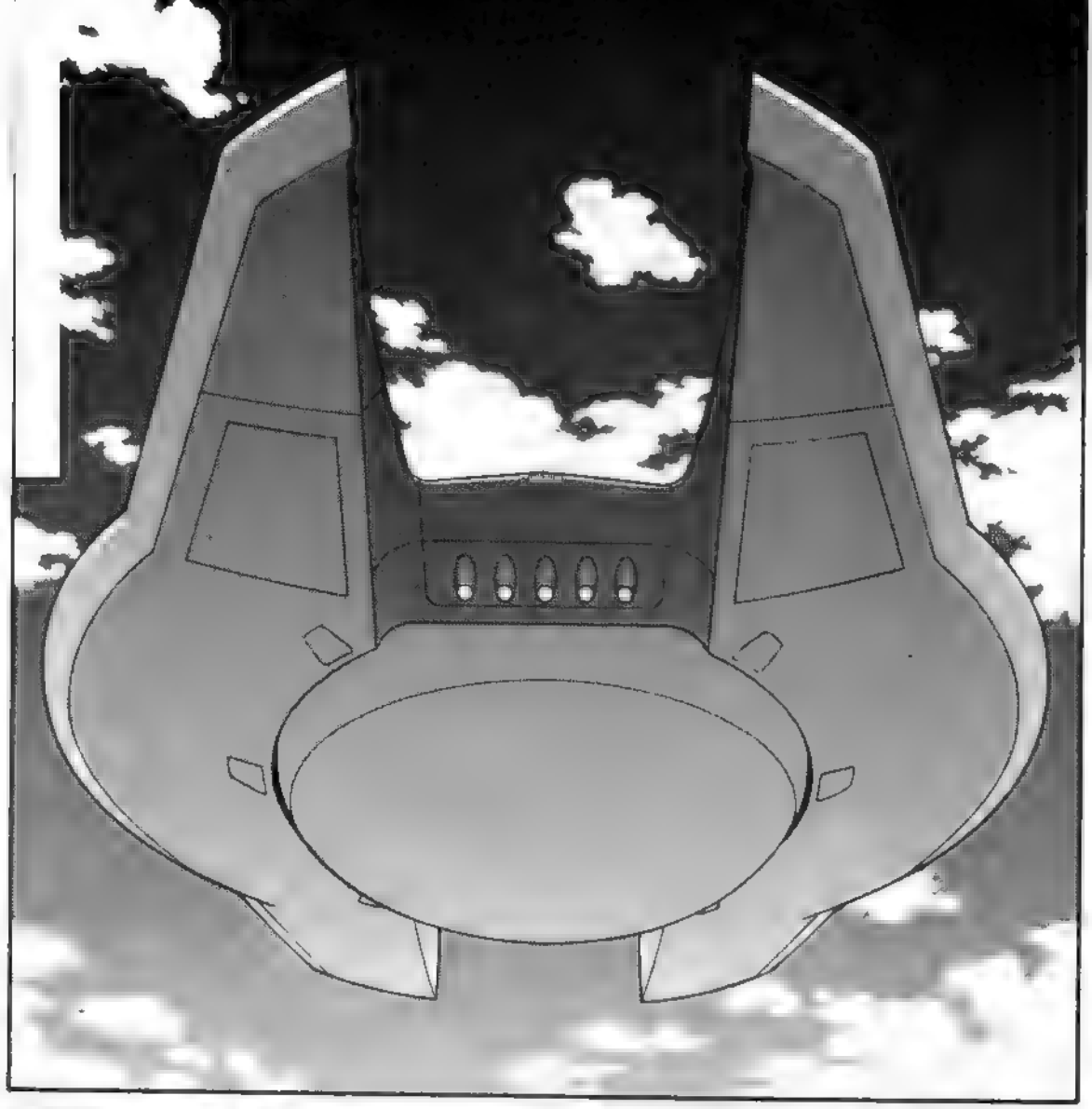

YOU STILL HAVEN'T GAINED CONTROL OF EXAXXION ...?!
AH, NO, SIR...
ALL THE PRIMARY DATALINES TO THE ELEVATOR BASE HAVE HAD THEIR SECURITY LEVELS BOOSTED TO EXTREME DEGREES...I NEED MORE TIME TO HACK THEM.
AND WE CAN'T USE THE COMMERCIAL CELLULAR LINES, SIR! THEIR SIGNALS ARE TOO WEAK TO GET THROUGH THE JAMMING PUMPED OUT BY SHES'KA'S ROBOT!


DAMN... WELL, MAKE IT SNAPPY, LADIES!
WE'LL HAVE TO HACK THE RIOFALDIAN MILITARY DATALINKS...!
HOICHI... ISAKA... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING?

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the Exaxxion super-robot for humanity's defense.

KRANGG
CHNKK
KRNKK
THESE TWO ARE STILL ALIVE...I INJECTED THEM WITH *MEDICAL NANO-MACHINES.*
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE *MORE* OF YOUR PEOPLE, START *DIGGING* THEM OUTTA THAT CRAP!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU RANK AND FILE *GRUNTS,* OKAY?
SO DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT TAKING ME ON!
NONE OF THOSE PISSANT WEAPONS OF YOURS CAN *HURT* ME, UNDERSTAND?
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, *LET ME THROUGH!*

THMP
WHSHHH
WE'VE RECOVERED THE AIRBIKE'S ENGINE, SIR.
VMMM
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM IT!
MAINTAIN MAXIMUM MAGNETIC SHIELDING!
THE GASTA'AF HAS ARRIVED, SIR!
VVMMMM



DISCONNECT THE *RUNWAY'S* SECTIONAL JOINTS!

WE'LL LIFT UP *EVERYTHING*, AIRSTRIP SURFACE AND ALL!

PSSHHNKK

TO BE CONTINUED...!

story and art by KENICHI SONODA

ISAKA! HAVE YOU CUT THOSE WIRES YET?
I'M GONNA SMASH MY WAY DOWN THE DAMN ORBITAL ELEVATOR SHAFT!
HEY, ISAKA... WHAT'S WRONG?
ISAKA?!
DON'T TELL ME SHE GOT HERSELF WASTED--!
SHIT ...!
SIR ...?!
DON'T SHOOT, ANY OF YOU! IT'S HOPE-LESS!
KEEP AWAY FROM HIM! LEAVE THIS TO THE ROBOTS, AND THE BACK-UP UNIT HEAD-QUARTERS IS SENDING!
Y-YES, SIR...
DID HE SAY "BACK-UP UNIT" ...?
WHAT CAN THEY DO THAT WE CAN'T?

HOICHI "GUN" KANO – Encased in his powerful gunner suit, Hoichi fights the alien menace head-on in an attempt to free his crippled *Enzzion* robot.

I'M SORRY, SIR... I *STILL* CAN'T CRACK THE RIOFALDIAN MILITARY'S DATALINES, *OR* THEIR ORBITAL WEAPONS LINKS...!
THEIR *SECURITY LEVELS* ARE CONTINUING TO CLIMB--
JUST KEEP *HAMMERING AWAY,* MY DEAR!
AND WHAT'S THE STATUS REPORT ON THOSE *INSURGENT NAVAL ASSETS?*
WE'RE IN CONTACT WITH 70% OF THE *WARSHIPS* THAT HAVE SLIPPED OUT FROM RIOFALDIAN CONTROL, SIR.
THIS INCLUDES TWO *NUCLEAR SUBMARINES* FROM THE *U.S.*, AND ONE SUB EACH FROM *JAPAN* AND *EUROPE.* THE REST ARE ALL *SURFACE SHIPS...*
IF THE 'FALDIES HAVEN'T *CAUGHT* 'EM YET, THEY MUST BE USING GRAVITY-CONTROL *STEALTH SHIELDING...*
...WHICH MEANS THEIR CAPTAINS WERE *'FALDIES.* THE HUMAN CREWS MUST HAVE *MUTINIED* AND KILLED THE BASTARDS.
THESE INSURGENTS MAY NOT COMPRISE MUCH OF A *FLEET*...BUT THEY STILL REPRESENT A *VALUABLE ASSET,* INDEED.
WHICH OF THEIR SHIPS IS *CLOSEST* TO THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE?
THE *U.S.S. PICARD* IS JUST 200 KILOMETERS EAST-NORTHEAST OF THE ELEVATOR BASE, SIR.
CONTACT THAT SHIP AND REQUEST *ASSISTANCE* FROM THEM, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE EXAXXION PROJECT'S *FULL SUPPORT!*

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the ***Exaxxion*** super-robot for humanity's defense.

A GRAVITY-CONTROL *MISSILE WARHEAD* MIGHT BE ABLE TO DAMAGE THAT *GASTA'AF* TRANSPORT, SIR....
YEAH....
...BUT ONLY IF *HOICHI* CAN BUY US SOME GODDAMNED *TIME*, FIRST...
SKRAKK
KREEEK
NGKK
THEY SURE DIDN'T SKIMP ON *INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION*, HERE...
KREEEK
SKRKK
CAN'T BELIEVE HOW *STRONG* THESE DOORS ARE...!
KREEK
PINGG♪

UWAAA!
FSHNK

KCHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
KCHOOM
KCHOOM
KCHOOM
KCHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
KCHOOM
KCHOOM
KCHOOM

RUNWAY SURFACE SEPARATION *COMPLETE*, SIR!
REDUCE THE RADIUS OF *OUR* GRAVITY FIELD, COLONEL.
ATTENTION, *GASTA'AF*, FOCUS ALL GRAVITY-CONTROL FIELDS ON THIS SEGMENT OF RUNWAY...
...AND *COMMENCE LIFTING* IMMMEDIATELY!
YES, SIR! NOW DEPLOYING LIFTING FIELDS...
WHROOOM

SKROOOM
SHRAKK
RRMMMBB
THEY'RE PICKING UP EXAXXION *AND* THE SECTION OF RUNWAY IT'S PINNED TO, SIR!
WHAT ABOUT THAT *U.S.S. PICARD?*
SHE'S WITHIN *MISSILE RANGE,* SIR...BUT WE'RE STILL NEGOTIATING *TERMS...!*
ISAKA, DEAR... HANG ON, PLEASE...!
YOU'RE OUR *LAST HOPE...*

THE LIFT RATE IS SLOWING...
GASTA'AF IS DEPLOYING GRAVITY CONTROL AT FULL POWER, SIR...BUT EXAXXION'S OWN FIELDS ARE RESISTING US.
SHALL I ENGAGE OUR XXX UNIT AND SPEED UP THE PROCESS ...?
NEGATIVE, COLONEL! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE ANY OF OUR ANTI-MATTER SUPPLY...
ALL FORCES, REMAIN ON ALERT!
KEEP ON YOUR GUARD UNTIL THIS OPERATION IS COMPLETE!
BUT, GENERAL SHES'KA...WE'VE RECOVERED BOTH PIECES OF THE TRANSFORMABLE AIRBIKE, AND THE PILOT IS CURRENTLY TRAPPED INSIDE THE ELEVATOR...
THERE MAY WELL BE MORE ENEMY FORCES OUT THERE!
NO INTRUDERS MUST BE ALLOWED TO BOARD GASTA'AF, UNDERSTAND?
FWOOSH
YES, SIR! WE'LL REMAIN VIGILANT!

WHOK

WHAMM

KRAKK

D-
DAMN--!

WHAP

DON'T GET TOO *COCKY*, EARTH-LING.

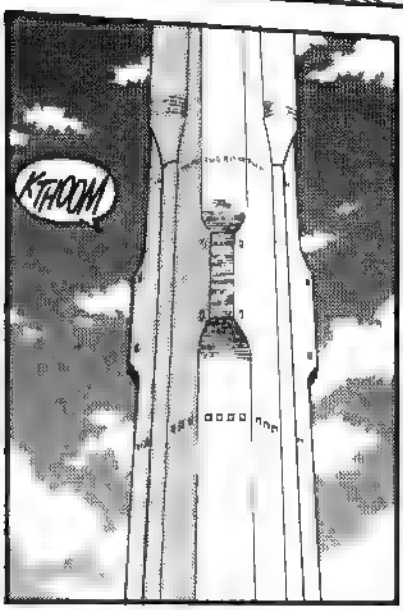
DID YOU THINK WE COULDN'T FIGHT IN *BATTLE SUITS?*

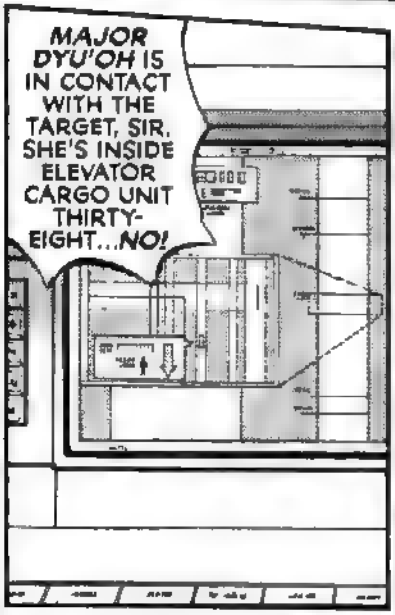
WE HAVEN'T *NEEDED TO* FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS, BUT WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THE *TECHNOLOGY* AVAILABLE TO US... WE JUST REQUIRED A RATIONALE TO GET *FUNDING* ALLOTTED.

YOU HUMANS MAY POSSESS BETTER MUSCLE MASS AND COORDINATION THAN WE DO...
...BUT OUR TECHNOLOGY LEAVES YOU FAR BEHIND.
WE'LL BE MASS PRODUCING THESE SUITS, PROFITABILITY BE DAMNED, TO DEAL WITH ANY FUTURE HUMAN INSURGENTS.
THEY'RE DOOMED... AS ARE YOU, OF COURSE!
SHINGG
KCHINGG
VRMMM
HUAH!
VRMMM
FAP
SKREEEK
AMP

!!
KLUDD
WHDD
CANNON
DON'T...
...YOU...
...MOCK ME!!

FSHNKK
TMPP
TMPP
TMPP


KTHOOM


MAJOR DYU'OH IS IN CONTACT WITH THE TARGET, SIR. SHE'S INSIDE ELEVATOR CARGO UNIT THIRTY-EIGHT...NO!

RRROOM

THE CARGO UNIT IS BADLY DAMAGED... NOW IT'S FREE-FALLING, SIR!

IT'S COLLIDING WITH THE NEXT UNIT DOWN THE SHAFT!
IT JUST TORE RIGHT THROUGH THE UNIT BELOW IT... AND IS STILL ACCELER-ATING!

WHERE DOES THAT SHAFT *TERMINATE?*
IT OPENS INTO THE *MAIN HALL,* SIR...WAIT, THEY'RE HITTING THE *EMERGENCY DAMPER* RIGHT NOW!
KA-BOOM
WHROOOM
A-4
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

KRANGG
!!

I-E
HINO

OH MY GOD... IS THAT...
...IS THAT THE BLACK-SUITED GUY...?
VR1
FSHHH
NO... THAT'S A RIOFAL-DIAN...
VR1
HAHH
HKK
HAHH
WE WERE GRAPPLING IN FREE-FALL, LADY...
...WHICH MEANS WE BOTH TOOK THE SAME IMPACT FORCES WHEN WE LANDED.

AND THAT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU, HUH?
THMP
SKRRK
'CAUSE LIKE YOU SAID...
...COMPARED TO YOU 'FALDIES...
PSHHNK
...WE HUMANS ARE FUCKIN' TOUGH!
WHOOSH
FWHSSH
WHRAM

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding ***Hoichi Kano*** as she's linked to the ***Exaxxion*** robot.

VMMM
KTANG
KTANG
THEY SEIZED THIRTY KILOS WORTH OF MY NANO-MATERIAL, BUT...
...I BUILT A DUMMY MAIN UNIT ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, WITH A BOULDER INSIDE IT TO SIMULATE MY MISSING BODY MASS.
EXAXXION REMAINS PINNED DOWN, UNFORTU-NATELY... THEY'RE LIFTING IT INTO THEIR SHIP RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?! CAN'T WE STOP THEM?
EXAXXION IS TRAPPED WITHIN THEIR GRAVITY-CONTROL FIELD AND CANNOT MOVE, I'M AFRAID...
WHAT IF WE FIRED THE EXA-CANNON ...?
THEY'RE KEEPING ITS MUZZLE TRAINED ON THE ELEVATOR BASE WHILE THEY LIFT EXAXXION... DO YOU STILL WANT TO TRY FIRING IT...?
RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB
HELL, NO! BUT YOU JUST GOTTA BUY ME SOME TIME, UNTIL I CAN GET OVER THERE, UNDERSTAND?
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BE ENTERING THE TRANSPORT'S GRAVITY-CONTROL FIELD SHORTLY, SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME...

ENDING
HEY, WAIT, ISAKA... I DIDN'T SAY THAT YOU SHOULD--
EXAXXION
AH... H-HOICHI ...?
STAY AWAY FROM HIM...HE'S DANGEROUS...!
IS THAT REALLY YOU, HOICHI?
LIKE THEY'VE BEEN SAYING ON THE NEWS ...?
HUH? AKANE'S SISTER ...?
IT... IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT...?
HOICHI! YOU HAVE TO TELL ME!
HOW MANY OF THOSE REPORTS ARE TRUE?
DID YOU REALLY CRUSH FREEWAYS AND ATTACK THE SDF WITH THAT GIANT ROBOT?
AKANE! MY MOM AND DAD! ARE THEY SAFE?
YOU DIDN'T REALLY SHOOT THAT PREGNANT WOMAN IN THE STREET, DID YOU...?

PLEASE... ANSWER ME! THE REPORT THAT YOU GOT ALL THOSE KIDS AT YOUR SCHOOL KILLED... THAT'S A LIE, ISN'T IT?
SAY SOME-THING!
RRG
AAARGH!
THOOM
SKRI KK
AAH!
SKRI KK
TMP
OH ...!
HOUGH!
4

SHIT!
GOD-DAMN IT!
WHAT THE *FUCK*, GRANDPA? WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO *HANDLE* THIS WITH YOUR *"INFO WAR"*?!
THEY *STILL* THINK I'M A FRIGGIN' *BAD GUY*!
WHSSH
VMMMM
SKRRK
OUTTA MY *WAY*!
GUN...
KCHAK
...SET!
VWIPP
CANNON 50
SHINGG!

MOVE IT!

VMMM

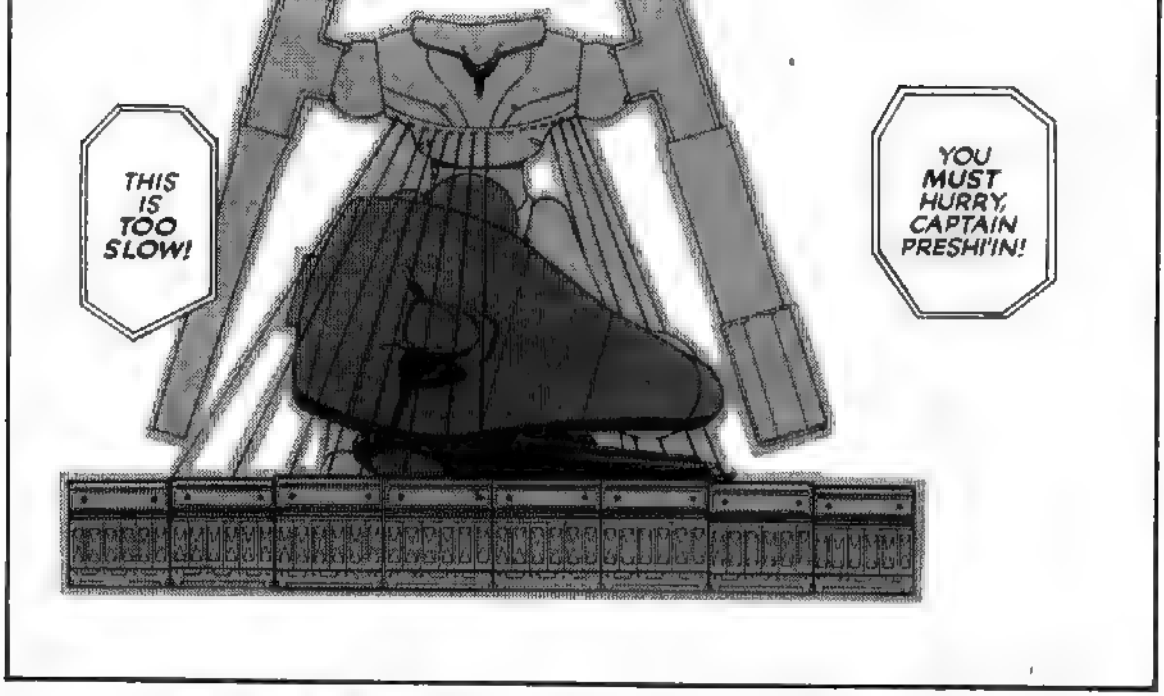
'CAUSE BAD GUY HOICHI--

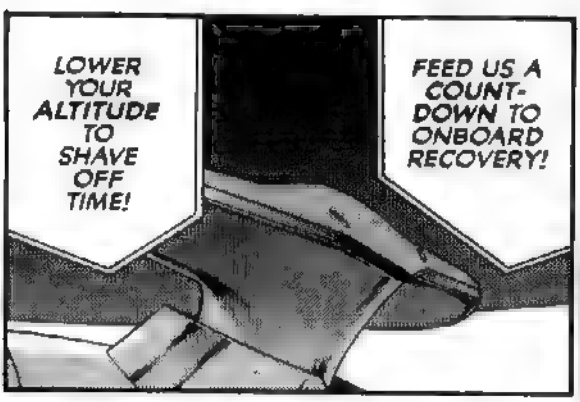
EXAR

--IS COMIN' THROUGH!

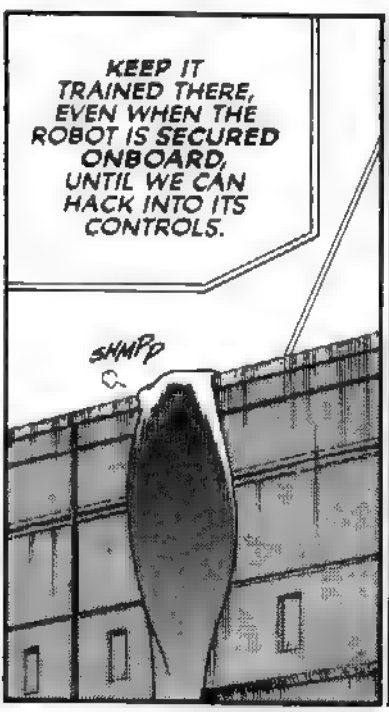
CHOOMKCHOOM

WHROOOM


THIS IS TOO SLOW!
YOU MUST HURRY, CAPTAIN PRESHI'IN!


LOWER YOUR ALTITUDE TO SHAVE OFF TIME!
FEED US A COUNT-DOWN TO ONBOARD RECOVERY!

AND DON'T FORGET TO KEEP EXAXXION'S CANNON LOCKED ON TO THE ELEVATOR BASE!


KEEP IT TRAINED THERE, EVEN WHEN THE ROBOT IS SECURED ONBOARD, UNTIL WE CAN HACK INTO ITS CONTROLS.
SHMPP

I NEED THOSE DAMNED MONKEYS AT THE ANCHORAGE KEPT AS HOSTAGES, DO YOU HEAR ME?
UNDER-STOOD, SIR.
SHLUPP

AND I'LL LEAK THAT ORDER TO THE ENEMY AS WELL, SIR.
EXCEL-LENT!

WHAT'S *WRONG*, COLONEL?

I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING *MOVE* DOWN THERE...THERE MAY BE SOME *ALIEN MATTER* STUCK TO THE RUNWAY.

SHOULD I *INVESTIGATE* THIS BEFORE WE BOARD THE TRANSPORT, SIR?

LATER, COLONEL. WE'VE *NO TIME TO LOSE* RIGHT NOW!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

CHARACTER PROFILE: **AI INAGAKI**

AGE: 24
BIRTHDAY: MARCH 2
HEIGHT: 5' 6"
CHEST (measured around breasts): 36"
CHEST (measured underneath breasts): 28"
WAIST: 22"
HIPS: 35"
WEIGHT: 125 lbs

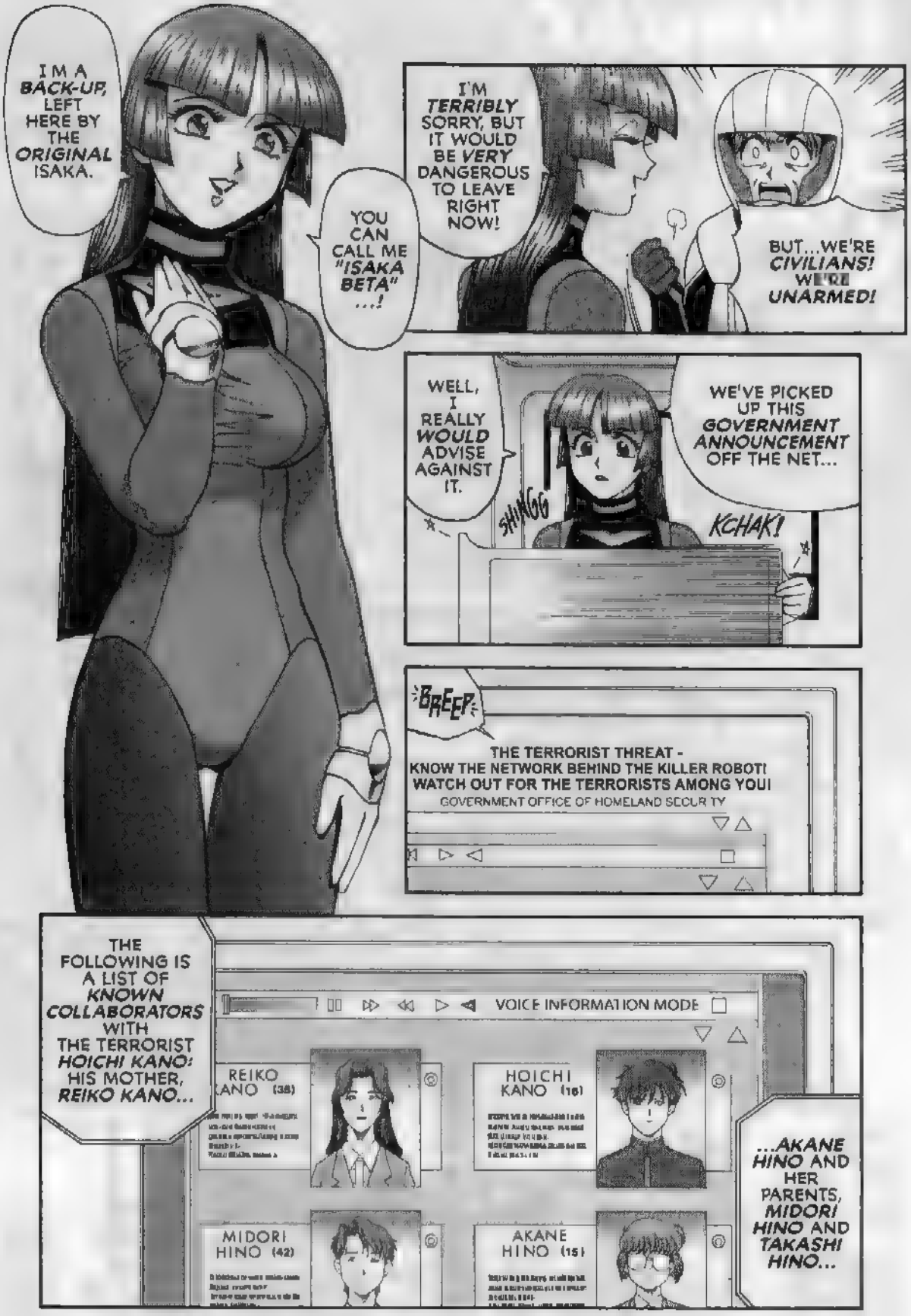
(Named for the Inagaki semiautomatic pistol (caliber, .32 ACP), first issued in 1940.)

Scouted by Hosuke Kano for her superb talents in mechanical engineering and hardware design, Ai was responsible for most of the design work on the Isaka-model android.

STAGE 4.8 story and art by KENICHI SONODA

KLANGG KTHOOM
....
WHAT IN HEAVEN IS GOING ON...?
AKANE! CALL THAT HOICHI RIGHT NOW!
I'LL MAKE HIM LET US OUT OF THIS WALKING COFFIN!
IF WE LEAVE NOW, THEY'LL ARREST US, MOM! THEY'LL KILL US!
NONSENSE! WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS ROBOT... WE'RE CIVILIANS!
HELLO, COMPUTER MISSY...? IF YOU'RE LISTENING, ANSWER ME!
YES ...?
SHLUKK-
AAH!
WH- WHAT...? ARE YOU A ROBOT, TOO?
I MOST CERTAINLY AM, MRS. HINO. I'M THE ANTHROPOMORPHIC MODE OF THE AIRBIKE THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.
BUT, ISAKA... DIDN'T YOU JUST LEAVE WITH GUN?

HOICHI "GUN" KANO - Encased in his powerful gunner suit, Hoichi fights the alien menace head-on in an attempt to free his crippled *Exoxian* robot.


I'M A BACK-UP, LEFT HERE BY THE ORIGINAL ISAKA.
YOU CAN CALL ME "ISAKA BETA" ...!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW!
BUT...WE'RE CIVILIANS! WE'RE UNARMED!
WELL, I REALLY WOULD ADVISE AGAINST IT.
SHINGG
WE'VE PICKED UP THIS GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OFF THE NET...
KCHAK!
BREEP
THE TERRORIST THREAT - KNOW THE NETWORK BEHIND THE KILLER ROBOT! WATCH OUT FOR THE TERRORISTS AMONG YOU!
GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF KNOWN COLLABORATORS WITH THE TERRORIST HOICHI KANO: HIS MOTHER, REIKO KANO...
VOICE INFORMATION MODE
REIKO KANO (38)
HOICHI KANO (16)
MIDORI HINO (42)
AKANE HINO (15)
...AKANE HINO AND HER PARENTS, MIDORI HINO AND TAKASHI HINO...

ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding ***Hoichi Kano*** as she's linked to the ***Exaxxion*** robot. Using nano-technology, Isaka can morph into various shapes and replicate herself as needed.

WHAT ON *EARTH...?* WHY IS *OUR* FAMILY LISTED?
YOU'VE **BEEN** LABELED AS *COLLABORATORS* FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARRESTED YOU, I'M AFRAID.
IT'S ALL *HIS* FAULT!
ER... *HONEY ...?*
IT'S ALL THAT *HOICHI'S* FAULT! ENOUGH IS *ENOUGH,* AKANE!
YOU MAY THINK THAT *THUG* IS YOUR LITTLE *LOVERBOY...*
...BUT IF YOU SO MUCH AS *TALK* TO HIM AGAIN, WE'LL *DISOWN* YOU!
N-NOW, HONEY... DON'T GET SO *EXCITED...*
AH... YOUNG, ER, *LADY?* WHAT S *HAPPEN-ING* TO THIS ROBOT?
THE ENEMY HAS EXAXXION *PINNED* WITHIN A POWERFUL *GRAVITY FIELD...*
SHNKK
...AND WE'VE BEEN TAKEN ON BOARD A RIOFALDIAN *TRANSPORT SHIP.*

WHAT ...?!
SO WE'VE BEEN CAPTURED, AFTER ALL HIS BRAGGING ABOUT HOW HE'D WIN?!
BOASTING LIKE THAT, WHILE DRAGGING US INTO THIS MESS...!
HE'S A LITTLE FRAUD!
THAT ROTTEN FRAUD!
SO THE 'FALDIES TOOK HIM OUT?!
WHATTA IDIOT!
LOSERS LIKE THAT ARE BETTER OFF DEAD!
THAT'S RIGHT! HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS HE GOTTEN KILLED?!
HEY, HOLD ON...THE 'FALDIES MADE THOSE CLASSROOMS VANISH, REMEMBER?
WELL, DUH! THAT'S 'CAUSE KANO PROVOKED THEM, THE DAMN TERRORIST!
BUT... THIS MORNING YOU SAID HE WAS COOL...!
I NEVER SAID THAT!
YOU FRIGGIN' TRAITOR!

YOU STUDENTS... QUIET DOWN!
HEY, SURE I WAS FOR HIM... RIGHT UP UNTIL THAT SAUCER ATE OUR CLASS!
SHMP SHMP
...PLEASE... BREATHE...
SHMPP
MISS KIN'BA ...?
IT'S BEEN AN HOUR, MA'AM .. HE S DEAD.
SHMPP
SHMPP

SOOB
N-NO...
HKK
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MA'AM. IT'S A MIRACLE THAT WE ONLY LOST A DOZEN KIDS!
I'M SORRY... I'M SO SORRY... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING... A-AND I WAS YOUR TEACHER...!
SOME STUDENTS DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT HERE IN ONE PIECE...
THOK
AAH!
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE HUMAN...
...YOU STINKING 'FALDIE!

In an attempt to force ***Hoichi*** to surrender to their invading alien army, ***Riofaldian*** troops used a ***Gravity Crane*** to collapse part of his old school, as seen in ***Cannon God Exaxxion: Stage 3***.

...
SHE IS RIOFALDIAN.
DAMN 'FALDIE BITCH
GOD-DAMN IT!
SHIT...
OH--!
WHAP!
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, AREN'T YOU?
WHOOSH
HEY, SHOW SOME RESPONSIBILITY, TEACHER!!
AAA-!
THOKK
THOKK
WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR ALIEN TECHNOLOGY AND BRING 'EM BACK TO LIFE?
YOU 'FALDIE MURDERER!
STOP IT!

THNKK
CUT IT OUT, YOU IDIOTS!
THOSE BASTARDS TREAT THEIR OWN PEOPLE THE SAME WAY THEY TREAT US!
THAT'S WHY SHE'S IN HERE, TOO!
ARE YOU DIPSHITS OUTTA YOUR MINDS, TRYING TO KILL A TEACHER ...?
YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR ANGER OUT ON JUST ANYONE!
MURATA...
HEY, MURATA... IF YOU'RE SO SMART, YOU DO SOME-THING!
QUIT TRYING TO LOOK ALL HEROIC, HUH?

GENERAL SHES'KA! WITH EXAXXION NOW ABOARD, WE CAN DEPART THE AREA--
NOT YET! MAINTAIN YOUR CURRENT POSITION OVER THE BASE!
WE NEED TO SECURE THE PILOT AND HIS COMPANIONS UNTIL WE'VE OBTAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE ROBOT...!
IN THE MEANTIME, INTENSIFY YOUR EFFORTS TO HACK INTO EXAXXION'S OPERATING SYSTEM!
AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT ANOMALY COLONEL HULAN'KI SIGHTED ON THE RUNWAY...
KEEP SEARCH-ING!
MASTER HOSUKE! I THINK WE'VE FOUND A WAY TO ACCESS A RIOFALDIAN MILITARY DATALINE! WE CAN GET A COMMAND THROUGH TO EXAXXION!
EXCELLENT! THE MOMENT YOU GET ACCESS, FIRE THE EXACANNON IN HALF-BARREL MODE!
BUT, MASTER HOSUKE... IT'S POINTED AT THE ANCHORAGE ELEVATOR'S HUMAN SECTOR!

SHOULDN'T WE TRY TO TAKE OVER THE *GASTA'AF TRANSPORT* FIRST ...?
WE CAN'T WASTE THE *TIME!*
THIS IS OUR BEST OPPORTUNITY TO *COUNTERATTACK,* WHILE THEIR ORBITAL ELEVATOR'S STILL OUT OF OPERATION!
NO MATTER *WHAT* IT COSTS, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO *LOSE* EXAXXION!
WE'RE *SEIZING CONTROL* OF THE DATA-LINE, SIR! WE NOW HAVE *DIRECT ACCESS* TO EXAXXION!
OUT-STANDING! *OPEN FIRE* WITH THE *EXA-CANNON!*
KCHIK

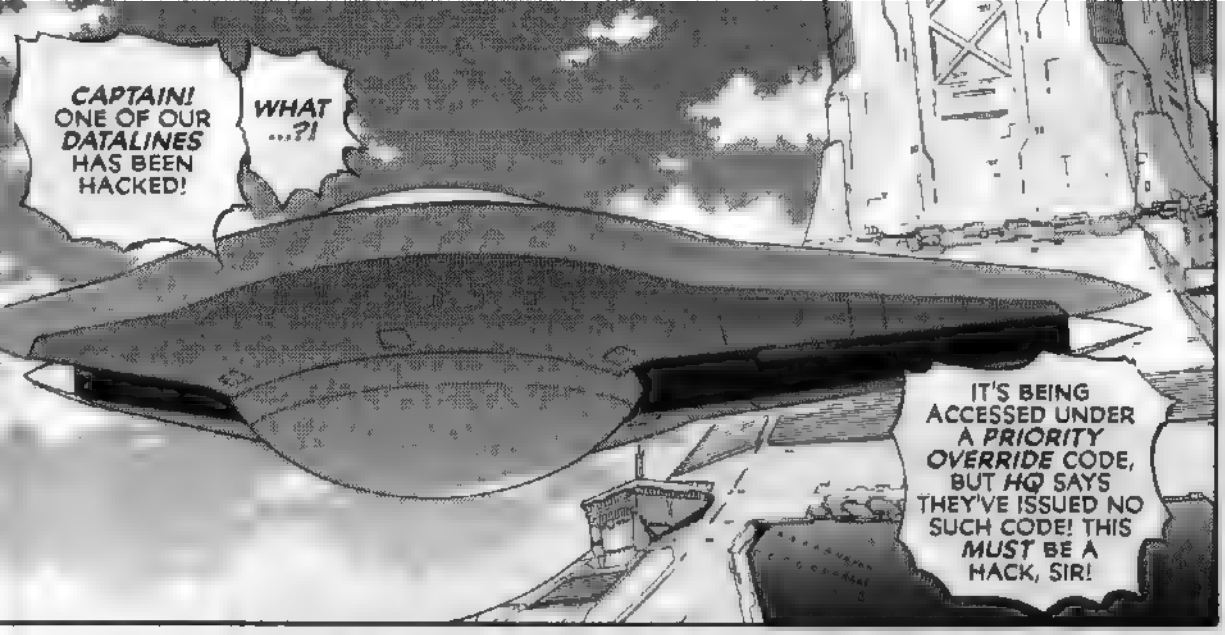
CHARACTER PROFILE:
FUMIKA HAMADA

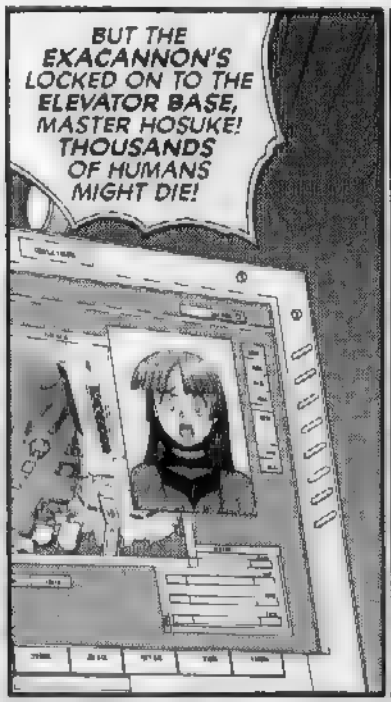
AGE: 18
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 6
HEIGHT: 5'
CHEST
(measured around breasts): 35"
CHEST
(measured under breasts): 25"
WAIST: 20"
HIPS: 31"
WEIGHT: 90 lbs.

(Named in reference to the Hamada automatic pistol, first manufactured circa 1941.)

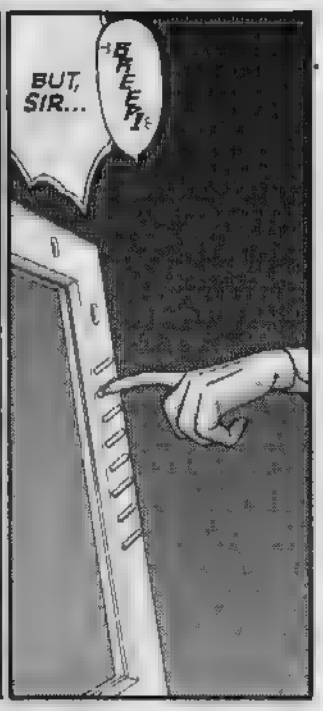
Originally one of Rona's star students at university, Fumika joined the Exaxxion Project team after her teacher introduced her to Hosuke Kano. Note that, as a child prodigy, she skipped several grades, hence her noticeable youth. Good at any task she takes on, Fumika was in charge of all the minor responsibilities around the base until Isaka was completed.

VREEE


CAPTAIN! ONE OF OUR DATALINES HAS BEEN HACKED!
WHAT ...?!
IT'S BEING ACCESSED UNDER A PRIORITY OVERRIDE CODE, BUT HQ SAYS THEY'VE ISSUED NO SUCH CODE! THIS MUST BE A HACK, SIR!

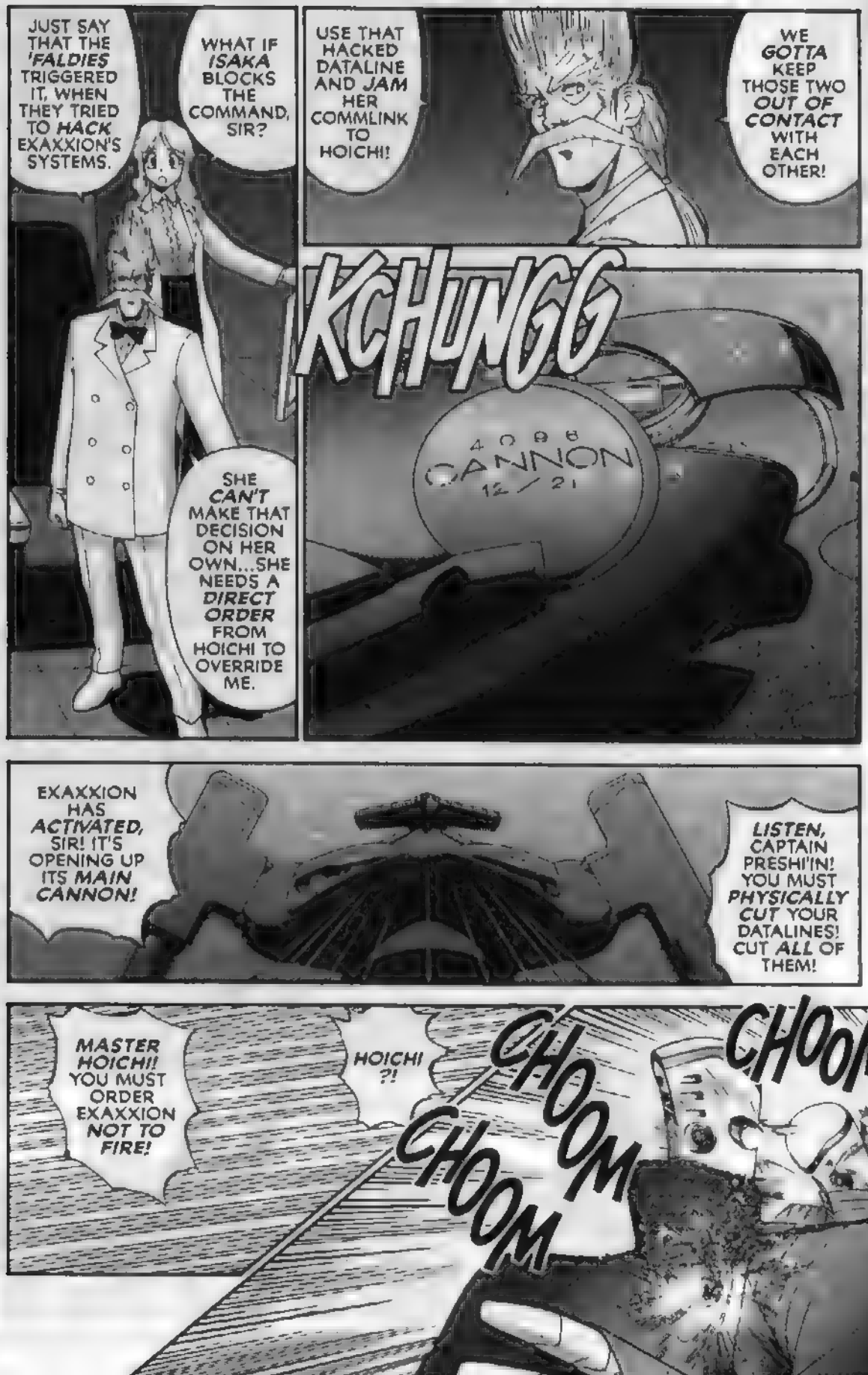


IF EXAXXION FALLS INTO ENEMY HANDS, MY DEAR, COUNTLESS MORE HUMANS WILL DIE, ANYWAY!
AND AS FOR HOICHI, IT WOULD TAKE A DIRECT HIT TO KILL HIM, WITH HIS SUIT IN BATTLE MODE!



THE COMMAND IS ENTERED, SIR. WE'RE NOW WAITING FOR THE FIRING SEQUENCE TO PROCESS...
IS THIS REALLY ADVISABLE, MASTER HOSUKE?
IF WE KILL TOO MANY HUMANS AT THE BASE, WON'T THE PROPAGANDA WAR BECOME PROBLEMATIC...?

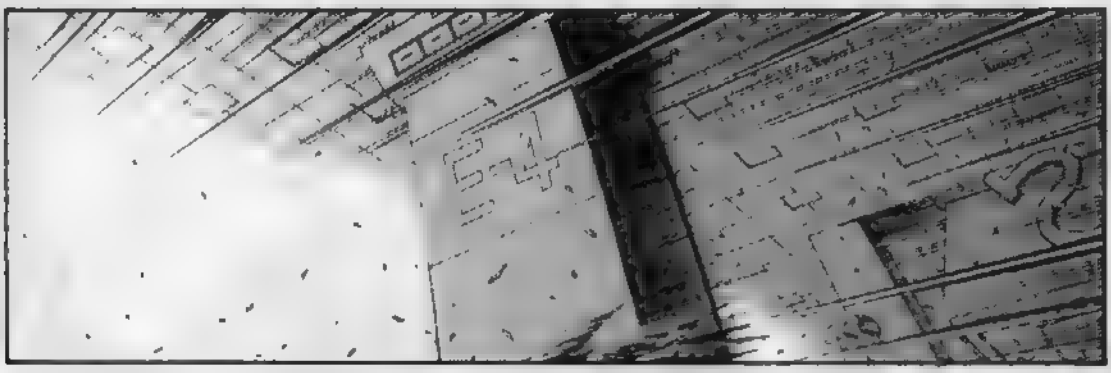
HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant yet perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the *Exaxxion* super-robot for humanity's defense.

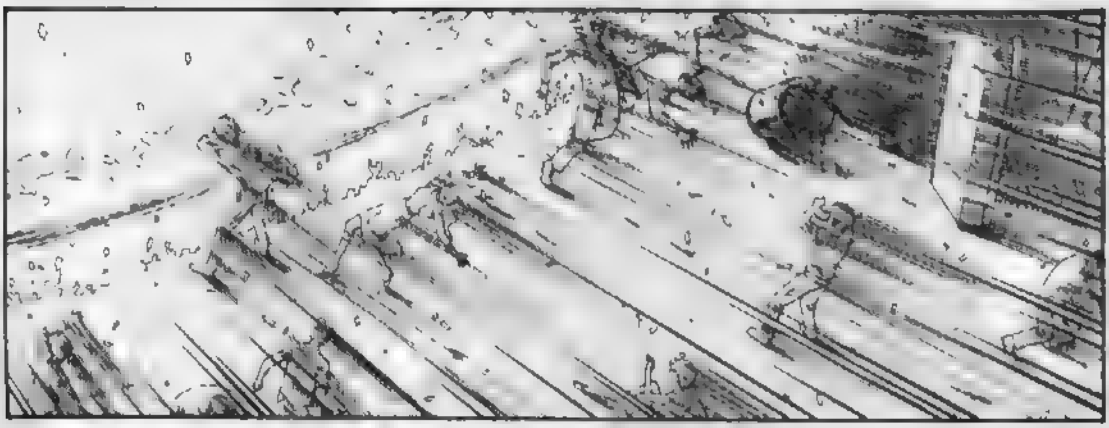

JUST SAY THAT THE 'FALDIES TRIGGERED IT, WHEN THEY TRIED TO HACK EXAXXION'S SYSTEMS.
WHAT IF ISAKA BLOCKS THE COMMAND, SIR?
SHE CAN'T MAKE THAT DECISION ON HER OWN...SHE NEEDS A DIRECT ORDER FROM HOICHI TO OVERRIDE ME.
USE THAT HACKED DATALINE AND JAM HER COMMLINK TO HOICHI!
WE GOTTA KEEP THOSE TWO OUT OF CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER!
KCHUNGG
4088
CANNON
12/21
EXAXXION HAS ACTIVATED, SIR! IT'S OPENING UP ITS MAIN CANNON!
LISTEN, CAPTAIN PRESHI'IN! YOU MUST PHYSICALLY CUT YOUR DATALINES! CUT ALL OF THEM!
MASTER HOICHI! YOU MUST ORDER EXAXXION NOT TO FIRE!
HOICHI ?!
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM

THDD THDD THDD
THMPP
WHAT'S HAPPENING, ISAKA? ANSWER ME!
SKRANGG
DID YOU TAKE CONTROL OF EXAXXION? ISAKA--!
CHOOM

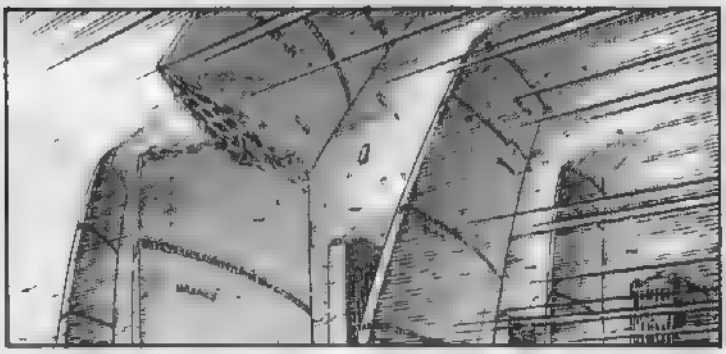
DAMN! CAN'T GET THROUGH TO HER...!
SKREEE
VRMBBB
!
WHRAM
WHOOOSH
NGKK
THIS UNIT'S MAIN CANNON WILL FIRE MOMENTARILY...
PLEASE BRACE YOURSELVES...
HAHH?
WHAT?

WHK





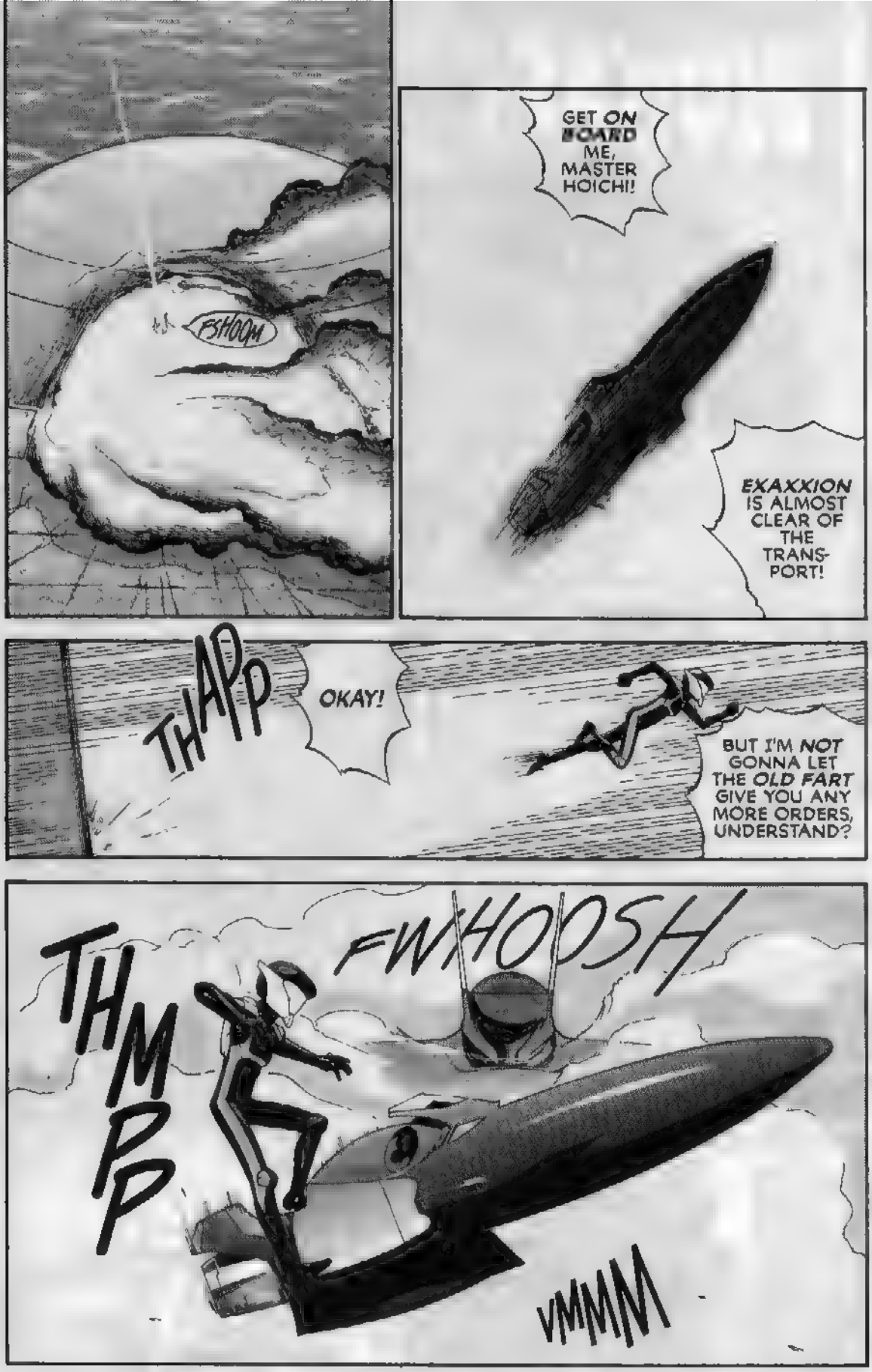
BOOM



WHROOOM
VRMM VRMM VRRMMMB
MAGNETIC OVERLOAD, SIR. I CAN'T GET A SENSOR READING... WAIT!
HE JUST WIPED OUT ALL THE HUMAN HOSTAGES ON BASE--?!
GASTA'AF'S POWER OUTPUT HAS DROPPED TO ZERO!
IT'S CRASH-ING, SIR!
WE'VE LOST ALL POWER ON THE STARBOARD SIDE, SIR! AND NOW THE PORTSIDE GENERATORS ARE FAILING!
VRRMMBB
WE HAVE TO BALANCE THE SHIP--!
THE SHIP'S NOT RESPOND-ING, SIR! WE CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THE ENGINE ROOM, AND--

SKROOM
KRANGG
RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB
RMBB RMBB RMBB

HEY, ISAKA! WAS THAT BIG BLAST THE EXA-CANNON GOING OFF?
YES, I'M AFRAID... BUT AT LEAST EXAXXION HAS BROKEN FREE.
SO WHY THE HELL DID YOU SHOOT?!
HOICHI, IT WAS A PRIORITY COMMAND FROM MASTER HOSUKE!
HEY, I THOUGHT WITH YOU, MY ORDERS OVERRODE THE OLD COOT'S...!
OUR COMMLINK WAS BEING JAMMED... I COULDN'T HEAR YOUR ORDERS.
DAMN IT, ISAKA! ANDROID OR NOT, YOU'VE GOT FREE WILL, DON'T YOU?
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IF THERE'S ANY POSSIBILITY THAT MASTER HOSUKE'S DECISIONS ARE, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, CORRECT...I CANNOT DISOBEY HIM.
WHATTAYA MEAN, "IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS" ...?
AKANE'S SISTER WAS THERE, IN THE MAIN HALL...!
I'LL CHECK ON HER STATUS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
RMBB RMBB RMBB
WHROOOM
...BUT FIRST, YOU MUST RETAKE EXAXXION! I'M BRINGING IT OUT OF THE SHIP RIGHT NOW!

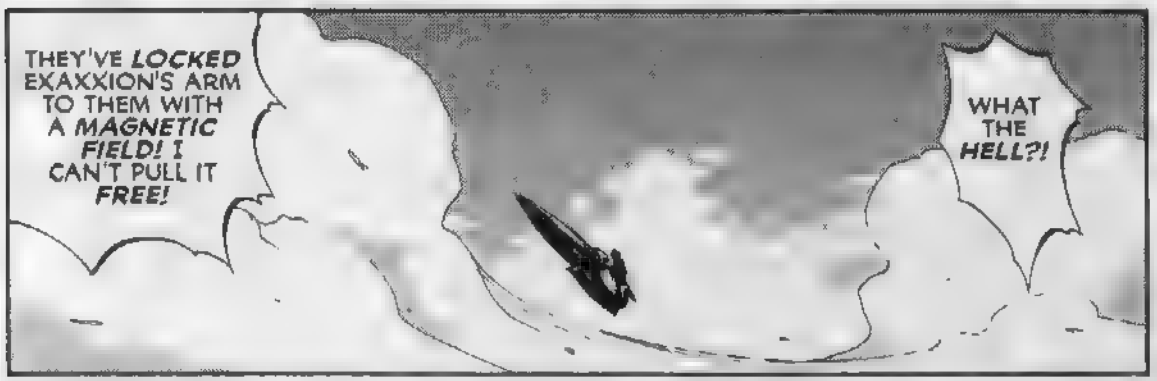

FSHOOM
GET ON BOARD ME, MASTER HOICHI!
EXAXXION IS ALMOST CLEAR OF THE TRANS-PORT!
THAPP
OKAY!
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LET THE OLD FART GIVE YOU ANY MORE ORDERS, UNDERSTAND?
THMPP
FWHOOSH
VMMM

FWSSH
WHOAH!
DON'T LET THE *PILOT* BACK ON BOARD THAT MONSTER! PLUG THE *ENTRY HATCH* AT THE REAR OF ITS HEAD UNIT!
UNDER-STOOD, SIR! I'LL USE AN *ADHESIVE* ROUND!
KSHANGG
KSHANGG
PSHNKK
CHOOM
GO *FASTER,* ISAKA! THEY'RE GONNA *FIRE!*
YES, SIR!

SPLUKK
UWAAH!
KTHOOM
EEK!
OH ...!
IS THAT THING LIKE CLAY OR SOME-THING ...?
IT'S AN ADHESIVE ROUND!
I'LL TAKE SHELTER IN EXAXXION'S SHADOW!
YE-ON!
ISAKA! OPERATE EXAXXION AND SMASH THAT FIRING PORT!
OUR ONLY QUICK-RESPONSE WEAPONS ARE THE RIGHT-HAND 88mm CANNONS, BUT THEIR ROUNDS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH KINETIC ENERGY TO PENETRATE--
THEN SPIN EXAXXION AROUND AND JUST USE ITS HAND CANNONS TO BLOCK THAT PORT! THAT'S AN ORDER, ISAKA!
YES, SIR!

CHOOM
SPLUKK
FWOOSH
CHOOM
SPLUKK
GENERAL SHES'KA! THEY'RE CLOSING TO HAND-TO-HAND RANGE!
TAKE THOSE VULCAN GUNS AND JAM THEM INTO THAT FIRING PORT, ISAKA!

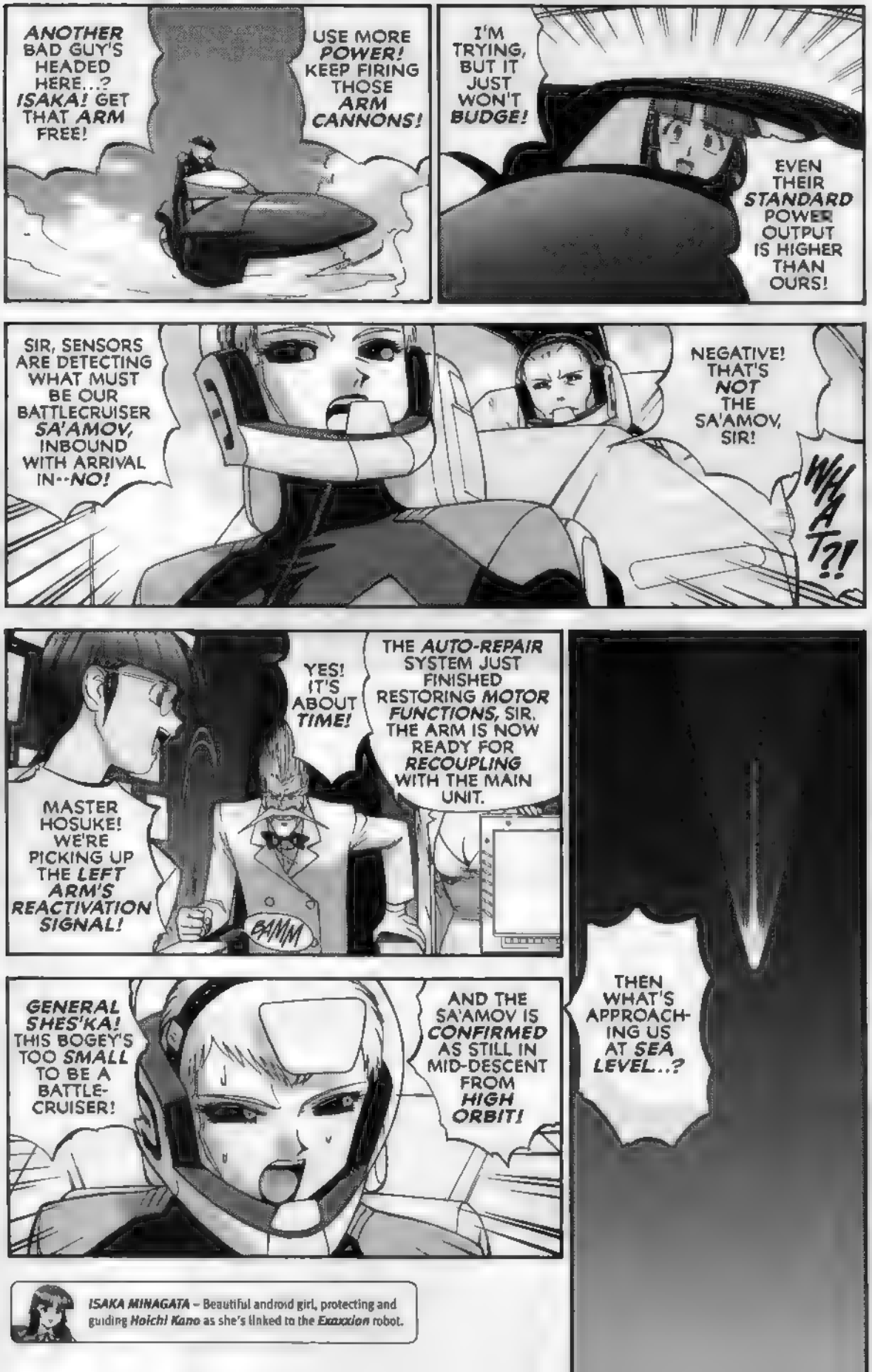
WHACK



MASTER HOICHI! A FLYING OBJECT IS CLOSING IN FROM THE NORTHWEST, MOVING INCREDIBLY FAST!
AND IT SEEMS TO BE USING GRAVITY CONTROL!
!!
EXAXXION

TO BE CONTINUED...!

STAGE 4.10 story and art by KENICHI SONODA


ANOTHER BAD GUY'S HEADED HERE...? ISAKA! GET THAT ARM FREE!
USE MORE POWER! KEEP FIRING THOSE ARM CANNONS!
I'M TRYING, BUT IT JUST WON'T BUDGE!
EVEN THEIR STANDARD POWER OUTPUT IS HIGHER THAN OURS!
SIR, SENSORS ARE DETECTING WHAT MUST BE OUR BATTLECRUISER SA'AMOV, INBOUND WITH ARRIVAL IN--NO!
NEGATIVE! THAT'S NOT THE SA'AMOV, SIR!
WHAT?!
MASTER HOSUKE! WE'RE PICKING UP THE LEFT ARM'S REACTIVATION SIGNAL!
YES! IT'S ABOUT TIME!
THE AUTO-REPAIR SYSTEM JUST FINISHED RESTORING MOTOR FUNCTIONS, SIR. THE ARM IS NOW READY FOR RECOUPLING WITH THE MAIN UNIT.
BAMM
GENERAL SHES'KA! THIS BOGEY'S TOO SMALL TO BE A BATTLE-CRUISER!
AND THE SA'AMOV IS CONFIRMED AS STILL IN MID-DESCENT FROM HIGH ORBIT!
THEN WHAT'S APPROACH-ING US AT SEA LEVEL...?
ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding Hoichi Kano as she's linked to the Exaxxion robot.

THAT'S EXAXXION'S *LEFT ARM,* MASTER HOICHI! IT'S *REPAIRED* ITSELF!
OH, YEAH? FOR *REAL* ...?
AND IT'S FLYING *BACK* HERE... ESTIMATED TIME TO *RECOUPLING,* FIFTEEN SECONDS.
I'LL CLEAR THE *ENTRY PLUG...*
WHOOSH
CHOOM
BOGEY IDENTIFIED AS THE ROBOT'S *LEFT ARM,* SIR... AND ITS *CANNON* IS OPENING FIRE!
WE'RE *NOT* THE TARGET--
KROOM

HOICHI "GUN" KANO – Reunited with ***Isaka***, Hoichi attempts to rescue his crippled ***Exaxxion*** robot from a ***Riofaldian*** assault.

--IT'S FIRING AT THE ROBOT'S *HEAD UNIT*--
SKRANGG
KCHINGG
EXAXXION
THE ADHESIVE ROUND'S BEEN *DISLODGED*, SIR! THE PILOT'S *BOARDING* THE ROBOT!
IGNORE HIM!
TRANSPORT *GASTA'AF!* DEPLOY YOUR *GRAVITY CRANE* AND DEFLECT THAT ARM BEFORE IT CAN *REATTACH!*
SHREEEE
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

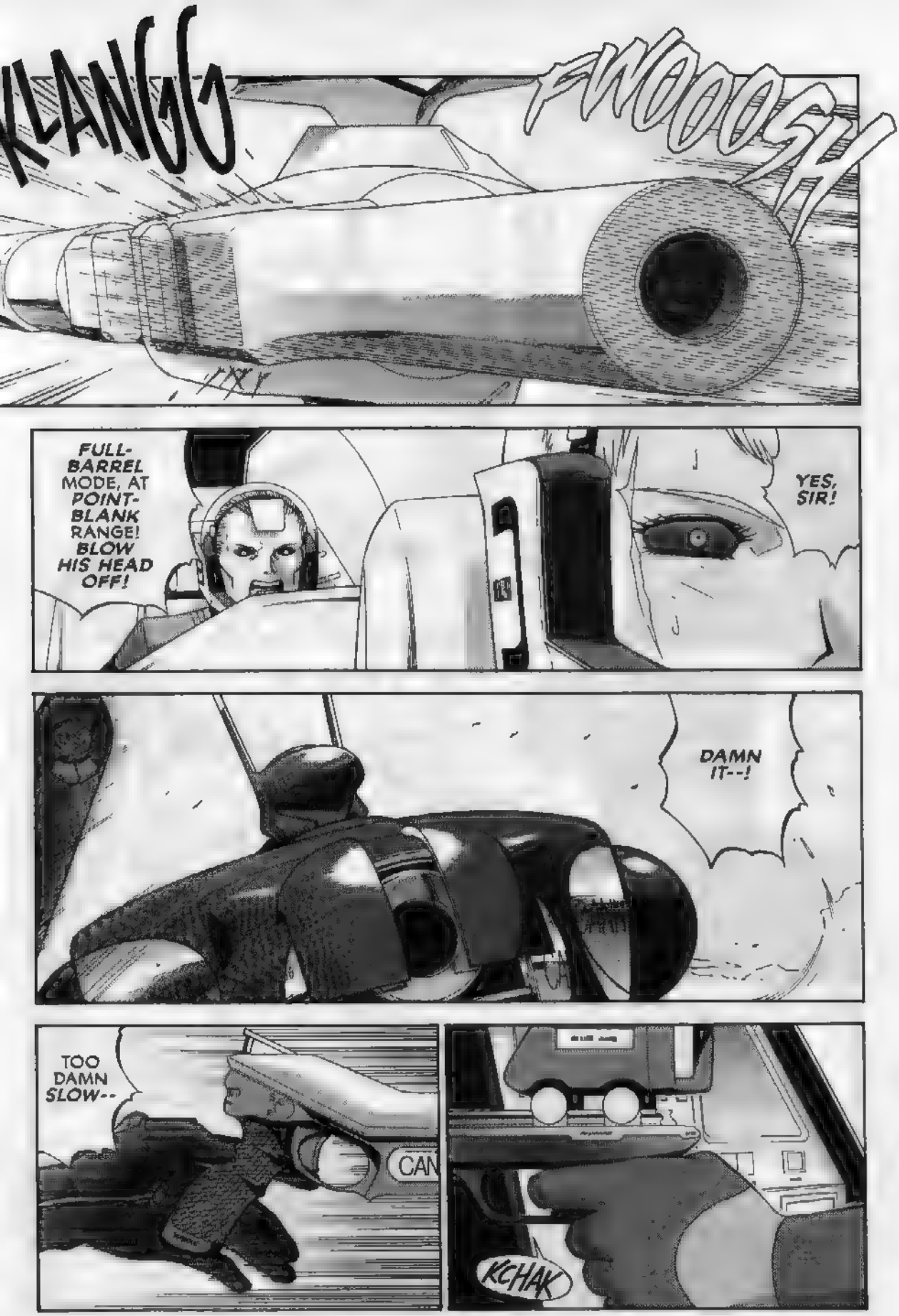
FSHINGG
HUH?! OH, GUN, WAIT...!
NOW EJECTING AKANE AND HER PARENTS!
FSHOOOM
H-HE'S GONNA DIE...
...AND GUN'S READY TO DIE, ISN'T HE?
FWSSH
ORDERS FROM GENERAL SHES'KA! REORIENT THE GRAVITY CRANE AND DEFLECT THAT ARM INTO THE ELEVATOR TOWER!

FSHINGG
!!
EXAX
G-GUN ...?!
YOU'RE ALIVE ...!
ISAKA! EVACUATE AKANE AND HER FOLKS, RIGHT NOW!
WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO, GET 'EM BACK TO GRANDPA'S BASE!
YES, SIR!

RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB
IT'S *HERE,* MASTER HOICHI!
ACTIVATING *REATTACH-MENT PROTOCOL* IN--
VORPP

WHKOOM
HUH? WHERE'D THE ARM GO--?
WHOA!
KTHOOM KTHOOM
KTHOOM KTHOOM KTHOOM
FWSHH
KSHANGG
WHOOSH

HUH? THEY'VE SPUN US AROUND SO THE ANCHOR STATION'S BEHIND 'EM...?
PSHNK
REVERTING TO REGULAR GUNNER SUIT CONFIGU-RATION!
SWITCH TO DIRECT FIRE MODE, COLONEL HULAN'KI!
RELEASE THE ROBOT'S ARM FROM OUR MAGNETIC FIELDS, AND SHOOT HIM!
KCHUNGG
KLANGG
THEY'RE RE-ASSEM-BLING THEIR MAIN CANNON!
DEPLOY OUR EXA-CANNON, FAST--!
SHINGG
FWHSHH
EXAXXION
CANNON


KLANGG
FWOOOSH
FULL-BARREL MODE, AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! BLOW HIS HEAD OFF!
YES, SIR!
DAMN IT--!
TOO DAMN SLOW--
CAN
KCHAK

KSHHH
BLACKOUT. WE'RE EXPERIENCING MAJOR EMP INTERFERENCE FROM THEIR MAIN CANNON'S DISCHARGE.
ALL FEEDS TO THE ANCHORAGE STATION ARE DOWN...
NO PICTURE
NO PICTURE

...WE'RE SCREWED.
STAR! RONA! FIRE UP THAT DISINFOR-MATION CAMPAIGN, STAT!
WHAT'S OUR SITREP, MISS TANEGA-SHIMA?
THAT LAST ENERGY DISCHARGE WAS DEFINITELY RIOFALDIAN, SIR.
WE DETECTED AN ODD ENERGY SPIKE JUST BEFORE THEY FIRED... BUT THIS SPIKE WASN'T FROM THE EXA-CANNON.
THE RIOFALDIAN MILITARY CIRCUIT WE JACKED INTO EARLIER HAS BEEN PHYSICALLY DISCONNECTED, SO WE CAN'T GET ANY CONFIRMATION OF THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATE...

...BUT MY PROJECTIONS INDICATE THAT EXAXXION HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN DECAPITATED! PROBABILITY, OVER NINETY PERCENT...
..AND THE ONBOARD XXX UNIT WOULD'VE BEEN LEFT INTACT...
WE'RE UTTERLY SCREWED!

HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the *Exaxxion* super-robot for humanity's defense.

...WAIT! WHAT'S ISAKA'S STATUS, RIGHT NOW?
JUST BEFORE THE ENEMY OPENED FIRE, SHE SUBDIVIDED HERSELF INTO THREE SEPARATE UNITS, SIR.
ISAKA PRIME WAS IN THE COCKPIT, WHILE ISAKA ALPHA HAS INFILTRATED THE ENEMY TRANSPORT SHIP.
AND ISAKA BETA IS RETURNING TO BASE WITH THE HINO FAMILY.
CAN WE CONTACT ANY OF THEM?
ONLY ISAKA BETA, WITH THE HINOS, IS OUTSIDE THE INTERFERENCE ZONE, SIR.
SHE'S REQUESTING CLEARANCE TO BRING THEM IN, MASTER HOSUKE!
THAT'S AN A-OK, RIGHT?
SHREEE
TAKE US BACK, ISAKA!
AKANE! YOUR MOTHER'S HAD ENOUGH!

THIS IS ALL THAT HORRID BOY'S FAULT! DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY DEATHS HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR?!
MOMMA! YOU TRUST THE ENEMY'S PROPAGANDA MORE THAN YOU DO US?!
JETTISON THE HINOS!
AND DISPATCH ISAKA BACK TO THE ANCHOR STATION IMMEDIATELY!
HAHH ...?
EVEN IF THE 'FALDIES DID RIP EXAXXION'S HEAD OFF, SHE CAN STILL MERGE WITH ITS MAIN BODY!
SO WHAT IF THE KID'S DEAD? WE CAN STILL COME OUT ON TOP, AS LONG AS WE RETAIN CONTROL OF EXAXXION!
SO SECURE THE DAMNED THING... AT ANY COST!

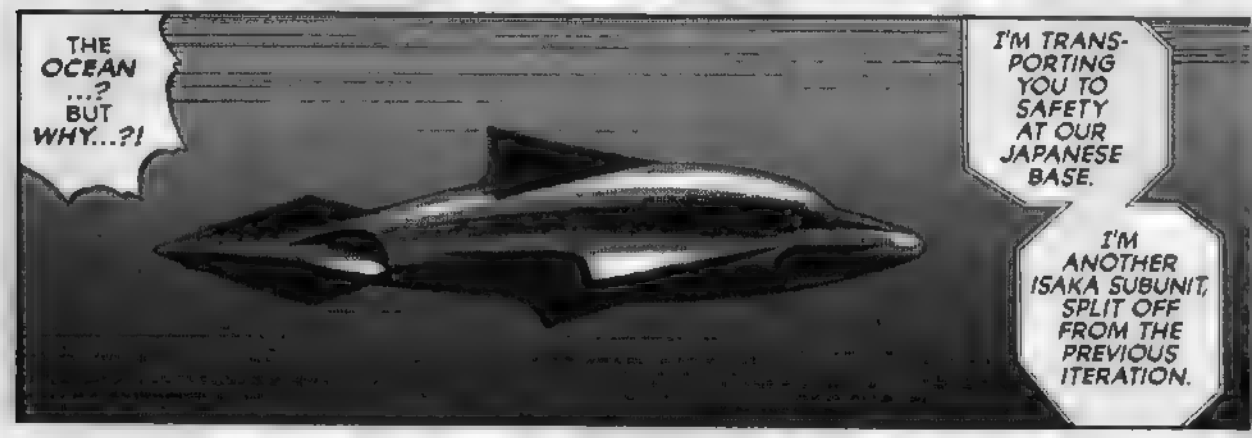
YES, SIR! NOW, ISAKA, DEAR...INITIATE PLAN L-R, BUT EXECUTE IT IN F-1 MODE, WON'T YOU?
WH-WHAT...? YOU'RE REALLY DUMPING AKANE AND HER PARENTS ...?
SHINGG
YES, DEAR SISTER!
SPLOOSH
SHREEEE

ISAKA'S TRANS-FORMED INTO HIGH-SPEED F-1 MODE.
CHOOM
SHREEEE
HER RETURN TRIP WILL TAKE HALF THE TIME.
UM, RYOKO... ISN'T THIS KINDA, WELL... COLD-BLOODED ...?
SIERRA, DEAR... IN F-1 MODE, ISAKA SHEDS ALL HER EXCESS NANO-MATERIAL MASS...
...SO HER EJECTED PORTION FORMED A LIFE SUPPORT POD FOR THE HINOS.
OH ...!

YOU'D HARDLY EXPECT ISAKA TO *ABANDON* THEM, WOULD YOU? ESPECIALLY NOT AFTER *MERGING* WITH AKANE...
SO LONG AS IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH A *DIRECT ORDER*, SHE'LL DO *ANYTHING* TO SAVE THEM...!

WHROOMB
GSSH

ALL THESE *BUMPS* AND *BANGS*... WHAT IN *HEAVEN* IS GOING ON...?
ISAKA! WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!
WE'VE SPLASHED DOWN IN THE OCEAN, AKANE.
M-B P-TYPE


THE *OCEAN ...?* BUT *WHY...?!*
I'M TRANS-PORTING YOU TO SAFETY AT OUR JAPANESE BASE.
I'M ANOTHER ISAKA SUBUNIT, SPLIT OFF FROM THE PREVIOUS ITERATION.

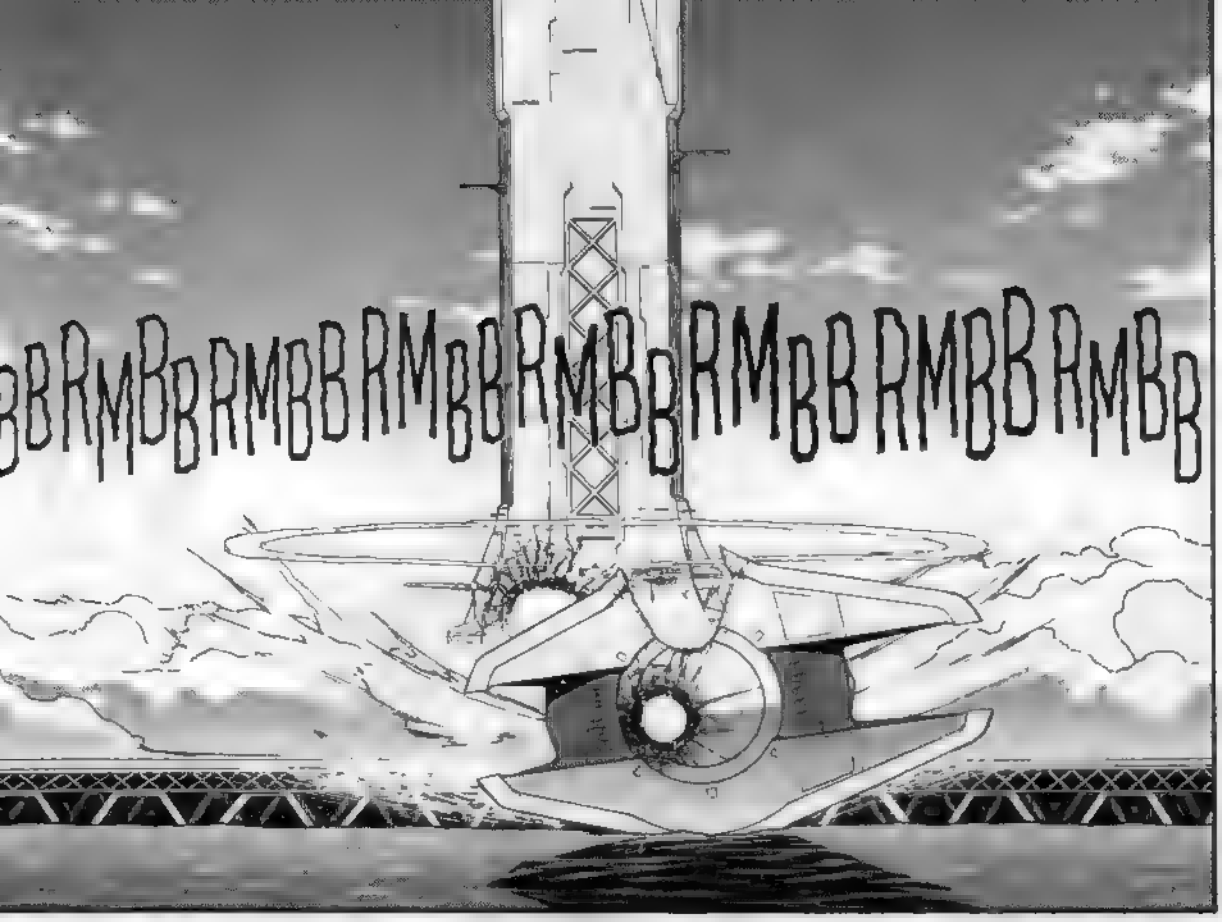
BUT I HAVE NO DEFENSES, I'M AFRAID... ISAKA ALPHA TOOK MY GRAVITY AND INERTIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS...

...SO I'VE SUBMERGED TO AVOID DETECTION.
BUT DON'T WORRY, PLEASE... I'VE ENOUGH RESOURCES LEFT TO PROVIDE AIR, HEAT, AND DRINKABLE WATER--
BUT WHAT ABOUT GUN ...?

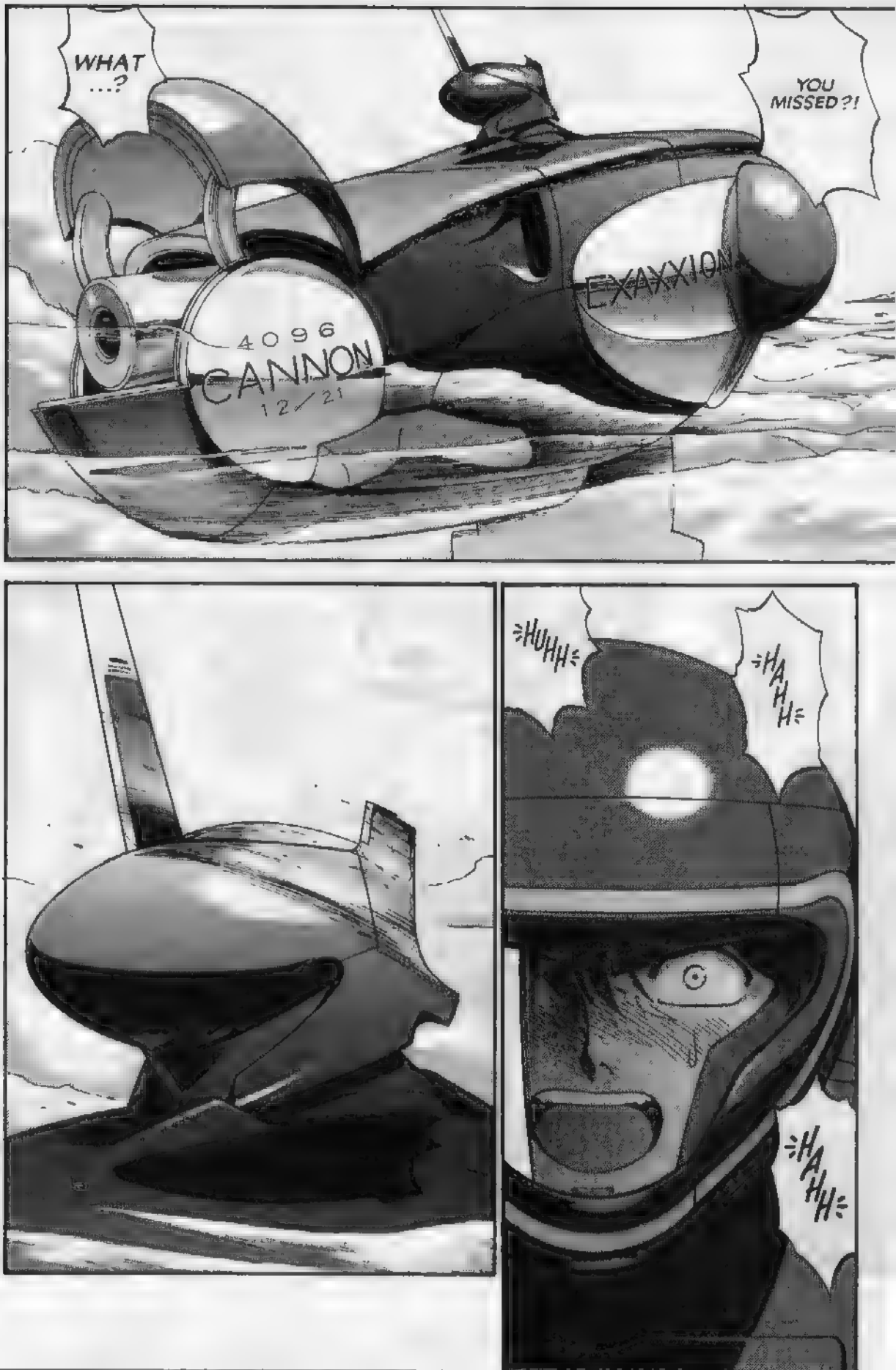
AKANE HINO! CONTROL YOURSELF, AND STOP WORRYING ABOUT THAT LITTLE THUG...!
BUT, MOMMA ...!
THE SUBUNIT RETURNING TO THE ANCHORAGE STATION WILL DO EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO PROTECT HIM...IF YOU WENT BACK THERE NOW, AKANE, YOU'D ONLY PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER.
ISAKA ALPHA'S ATTAINED MAXIMUM VELOCITY, SIR.
OOH... SHE'S SO MUCH FASTER WITHOUT ALL THAT EXCESS MASS!
LIVE
16 08 09 S-M MODE ON
16 07 52 F-1 MODE ON
16 07 50 S-SYSTEM SEPARATION
LIVE
16 08 08 F-1 MAX VELOCITY
YES, SIR! MEANWHILE, THE ISAKA SUBUNIT WITH THE HINO FAMILY ABOARD HER IS HEADED HERE UNDER-WATER, TRAVELING AT 150 KPH...
YOU MADE DAMN SURE SHE TOOK THE MEDICAL NANOS WITH HER, RIGHT? MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING LEFT OF THE BOY TO SAVE...
THAT'S OUR MASTER HOSUKE!
SHMPP
SO YOU WERE PLANNING TO SAVE THEM, ALL ALONG!
I'M FALLING IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN!
UH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...

...THAT'S RIGHT! AOI!
WHAT ABOUT AOI? IS SHE SAFE?
UNCONFIRMED, MRS. HINO... BUT WE'VE MADE THE SEARCH FOR YOUR DAUGHTER A PRIORITY. PLEASE BE PATIENT.
"PATIENT" ...?! YOU HAVE TO PROTECT HER, COMPUTER MISSY! DO YOU HEAR ME?
ISAKA...? PLEASE BE HONEST WITH ME... SOMETHING AWFUL HAS HAPPENED BACK THERE, HASN'T IT? THAT LAST CANNON ROUND MUST HAVE...
PLEASE TRUST ME, AKANE... THEY'LL BE FINE.
MEANWHILE, I'VE USED MY EXTRA NANOMATERIAL TO REPLACE YOUR GLASSES!
KCHAK
THANK YOU, ISAKA... AND I DO TRUST YOU!

AKANE HINO – A bright, investigative teen reporter, Akane is following in the footsteps of her older sister, ***Aoi***. Akane is deeply in love with ***Haichi Kano***.


BBRMBBRMBBRMBBRMBBRMBBRMBBRMBB

FWSHHHHHH


WHAT ...?
YOU MISSED?!
EXAXXION
4096
CANNON
12/21
=HUHH=
=HAHH=
=HAHH=

WHAT?! WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
FWSHHH
OUR CANNON'S MUZZLE WAS STRUCK BY A PROJECTILE JUST AS IT FIRED, SIR... WHICH DEFLECTED THE BARREL UP AND TO THE RIGHT.
WE WERE FIRED UPON? FROM WHERE ...?
FROM THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR SHAFT, SIR... THE ROBOT'S DETACHED ARM FIRED ON US.
WHAT'S GOING ON? THAT ARM WAS PINNED DOWN INSIDE THE STRUCTURE BY A GRAVITY CRANE DEPLOYED AT FULL CHOKE!
IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE MOVED TO AIM ITS CANNON... AND EVEN SO, ITS SHELL WOULD'VE BEEN NULLIFIED BY THE CRANE!
THE DEFLECTED CANNON ROUND FROM DAGUNOV ONE'S PENETRATED OUR REAR CARGO HOLD!
GETTING A DAMAGE REPORT...
MAIN CONTAINER BLOCK, DESTROYED! ALL INTERNAL SENSOR FEEDS TO THE CARGO HOLD, DOWN! CASUALTIES REMAIN UNKNOWN!
NOW CHECKING GRAVITY CRANE OUTPUT THROUGH-OUT THIS INCIDENT... AH!
THE CRANE'S OUTPUT PLUNGED, JUST BEFORE THAT ARM'S CANNON FIRED!

RESTORE GRAVITY CRANE FUNCTION IMMEDIATELY! WE CAN'T AFFORD A SECOND SHOT FROM THAT THING!
RUN A DIAGNOSTIC CHECK ON ALL CRANE SYSTEMS!
WE'RE GETTING NO RESPONSE! OUR COMMANDS ARE BEING BLOCKED!

ARE WE BEING HACKED...? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! OUR INPUTS WERE PHYSICALLY CUT DURING THE OPERATION!
BOOT UP THE RESERVE SYSTEMS! AND MAKE RESTORATION OF POWER TO THE GRAVITY CRANE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY!
NOTIFY GENERAL SHES'KA IN DAGUNOV ONE!

THE MAIN SYSTEMS... THEY'VE BEEN COMPLETELY REWIRED!
WHAT? THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
COULD THIS BE PHYSICAL INFILTRATION OF OUR INFRA-STRUCTURE? BY A ROBOT, MAYBE?

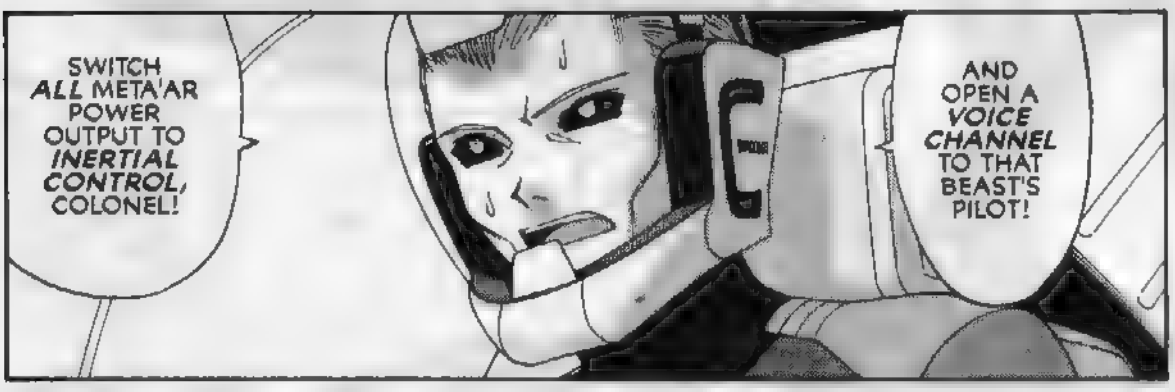
YES! COLONEL HULAN'KI SAW SOMETHING OUT THERE ON THE PLATFORM!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN--

BAMM
AAA!

=HAHH=
SHUPP
BZZK
THIS .. THIS THING PHYSICALLY HACKED US...?
GET SOME KINETIC WEAPONS IN HERE, NOW!
A STATE-OF-THE-ART RIOFALDIAN WARSHIP ...!
TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR SYSTEMS WAS QUITE DIFFICULT, YOU KNOW...
...BUT NOW EXAXXION WINS.
INCIDENTALLY, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES IN THE SLIGHTEST, I'D ADVISE AGAINST USING THOSE WEAPONS...

Using nanotechnology to replicate and morph her android body, ***Isaka Minagata*** stole aboard the ***Gasta'of***, a Riofaldian warship, in ***Super Manga Blast!*** #45

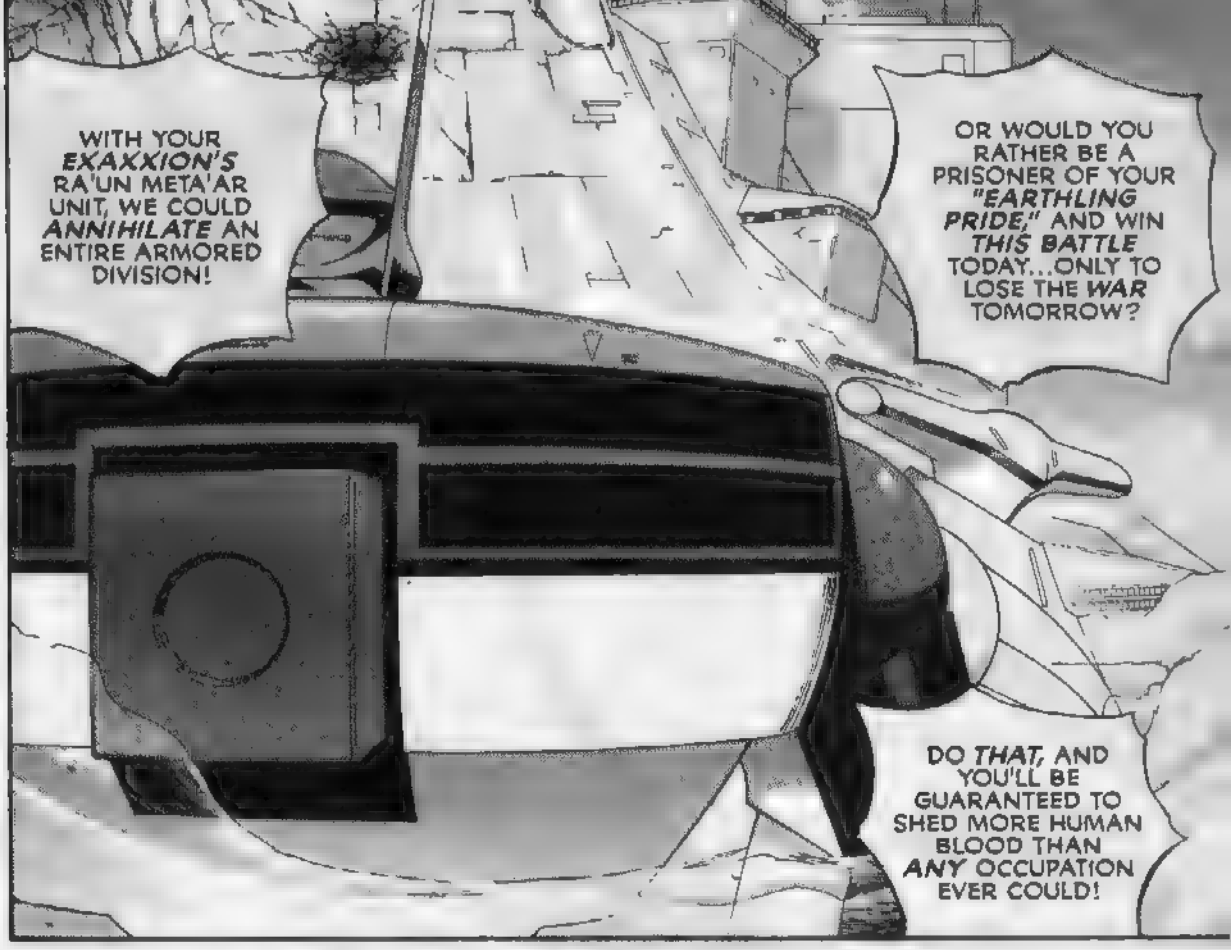
FWSHHHHH
EXAXXION
EXAXXION


SWITCH ALL META'AR POWER OUTPUT TO INERTIAL CONTROL, COLONEL!
AND OPEN A VOICE CHANNEL TO THAT BEAST'S PILOT!

DEFENSIVE MODE SET, SIR... BUT OUR ANTIMATTER RESERVE LEVELS ARE DROPPING FAST...!
NOW OPENING VOICE CHANNEL...

DO YOU HEAR ME, HOICHI KANO? THIS IS GENERAL OBROZAPHKA SHES'KA!
EXAXXION
EXAXXION

MASTER HOSUKE! INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM ISAKA ALPHA ABOARD THE ENEMY TRANSPORT GASTA'AF! HOICHI'S STILL ALIVE... EXAXXION ONLY LOST AN ANTENNA!
OUTSTAND-ING!
THE ENEMY PILOT IS COMMUNI-CATING WITH MASTER HOICHI, SIR! NOW PUTTING THE TRANSMISSIONS ON SPEAKER...
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU KILL US?
MERE TACTICAL SUCCESSES ARE NO REPLACEMENT FOR A REAL STRATEGY! JUST DEFEATING A SINGLE RIOFALDIAN ROBOT WON'T END A PLANET-WIDE OCCUPATION, YOU KNOW!
UNDERSTAND THIS, BOY, THE GENERAL AND I ARE IN OPEN REVOLT AGAINST OUR RIOFALDIAN HOMEWORLD.
WHETHER WE DIE, OR YOU DIE, THE HOMEWORLD WILL STILL BE DISPATCHING AN OVERWHELMING FORCE HERE... YOUR LITTLE PLANET'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED.
BUT IF THE EARTH'S MILITARIES... IF YOU WERE TO WORK WITH US, WE COULD JOIN FORCES AGAINST THE HOMEWORLD'S HORDES... AND DEFEAT THEM!


WITH YOUR *EXAXXION'S* RA'UN META'AR UNIT, WE COULD *ANNIHILATE* AN ENTIRE ARMORED DIVISION!
OR WOULD YOU RATHER BE A PRISONER OF YOUR *"EARTHLING PRIDE,"* AND WIN *THIS BATTLE* TODAY...ONLY TO LOSE THE *WAR* TOMORROW?
DO *THAT,* AND YOU'LL BE GUARANTEED TO SHED MORE HUMAN BLOOD THAN *ANY* OCCUPATION EVER COULD!

WILL YOU IGNORE THEIR VOICES, KANO? THE VOICES OF THE WEAK, THE POWERLESS, WHO ONLY WANT TO SURVIVE...?
SHALL I *PATCH YOU IN,* SIR?
NAH... LET'S JUST SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE HUMAN RACE, YOUR PATH IS CLEAR! JUST CLOSE YOUR GUN HATCH, AND WE CAN--

KCHOOM!
CANNON

FWHOOM
FWSHHH
WE NULLIFIED HIS CANNON'S VELOCITY, SIR!
AND WE HAVE ENOUGH META'AR POWER OUTPUT LEFT TO DO IT AGAIN!
TO BE CONTINUED...

BOOM

SCREECH

KHOOM
RMBBB
THOSE MAGNETIZED CLOUDS ARE BLINDING US, SIR...
FWKOOM
TRAIN YOUR CANNON TO THE RIGHT, AND BE READY TO OPEN FIRE!
MOVE FASTER! AND USE OUR INERTIAL CONTROL TO CLEAR OUT THESE DAMNED CLOUDS!
I'M PICKING UP A SONAR RETURN ON HIM, SIR! HE'S SHIFTED THIRTY DEGREES TO THE RIGHT...NOW RETARGETING OUR CANNON!
HA! EVEN IF HE FIRES FIRST, HE'LL NEVER GET A SHOT THROUGH OUR DEFENSES!
ALREADY DONE, GENERAL SHES'KA!

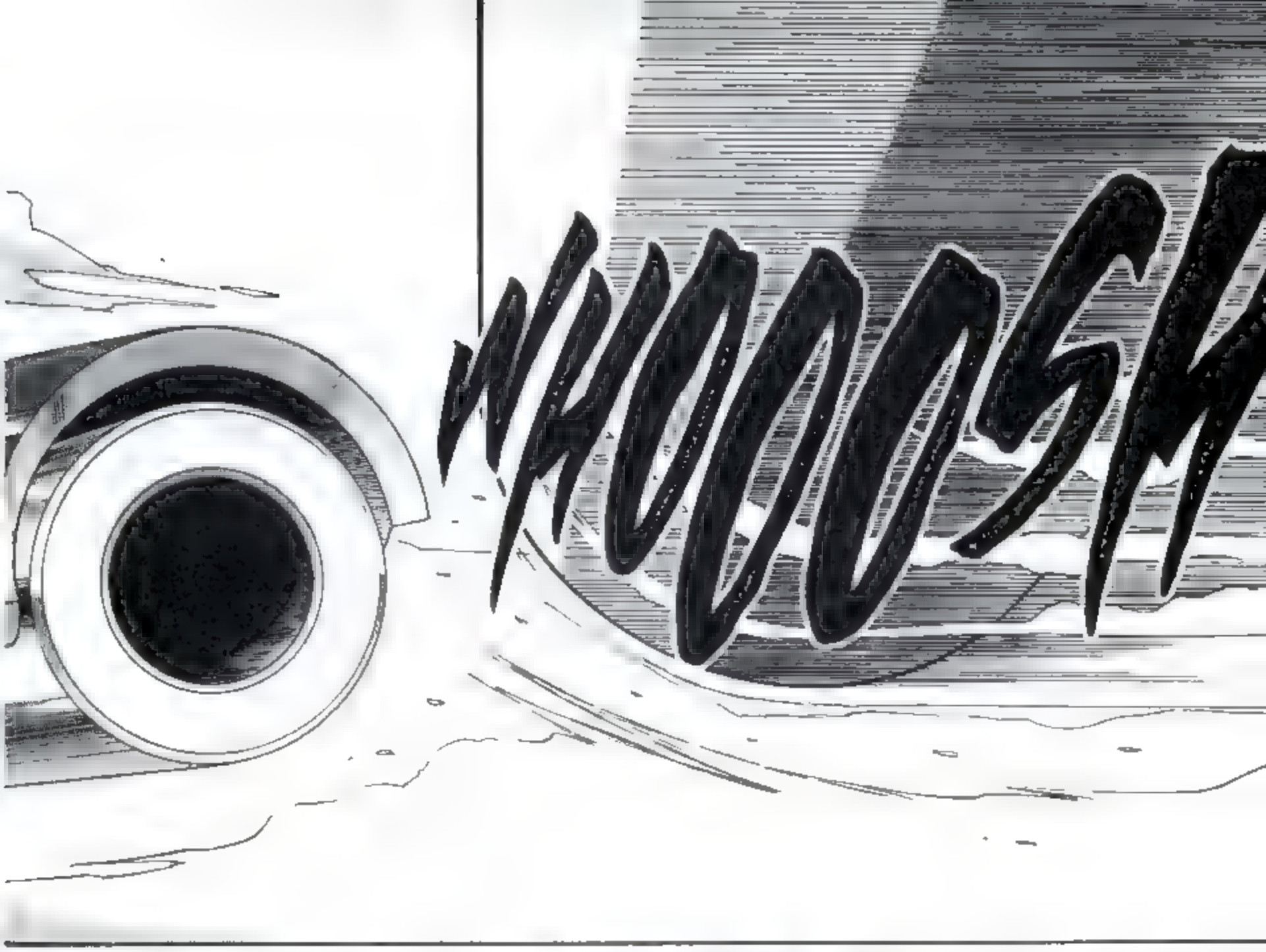
HOICHI "GUN" KANO – Reunited with ***Isaka*** and the ***Exaxxion*** robot, Hoichi fights ***Dagunov One***, the massive ***Riofaldian*** weapon.

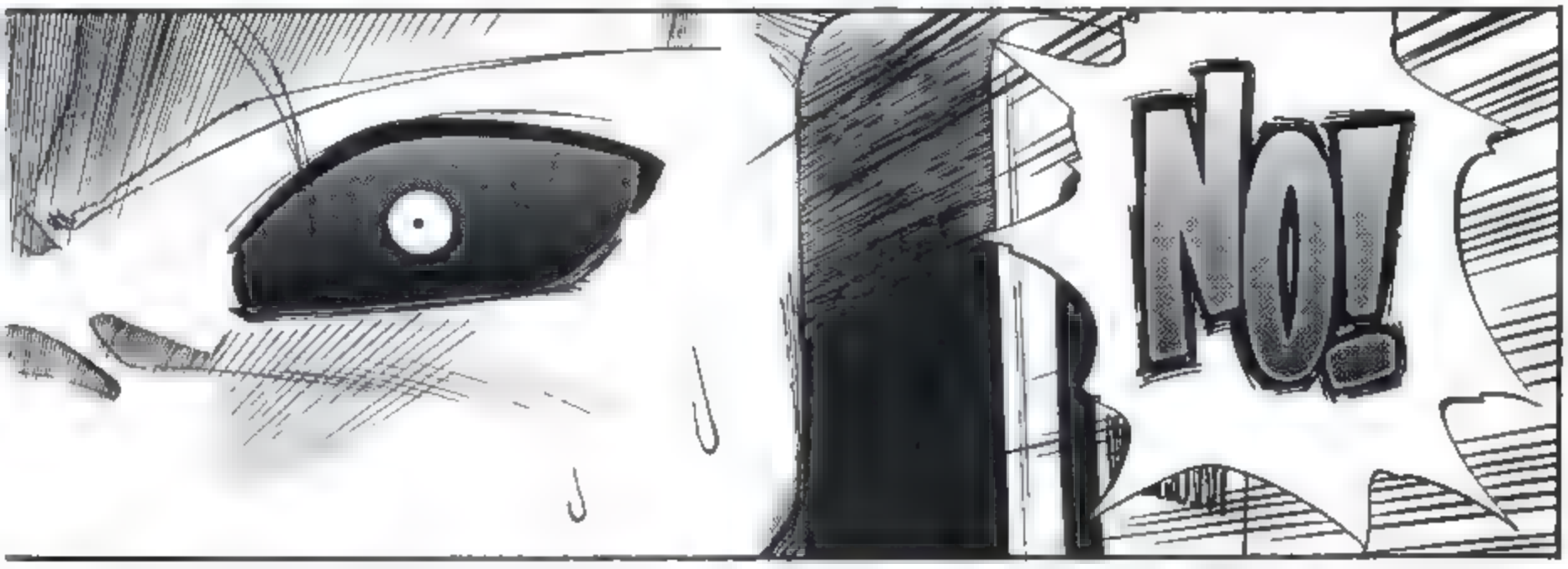
ISAKA MINAGATA – Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding ***Hoichi Kano*** as she's linked to the ***Exaxxion*** robot.

FINISH

FULL-
BARREL
MODE--?!

HEH!


WOOSH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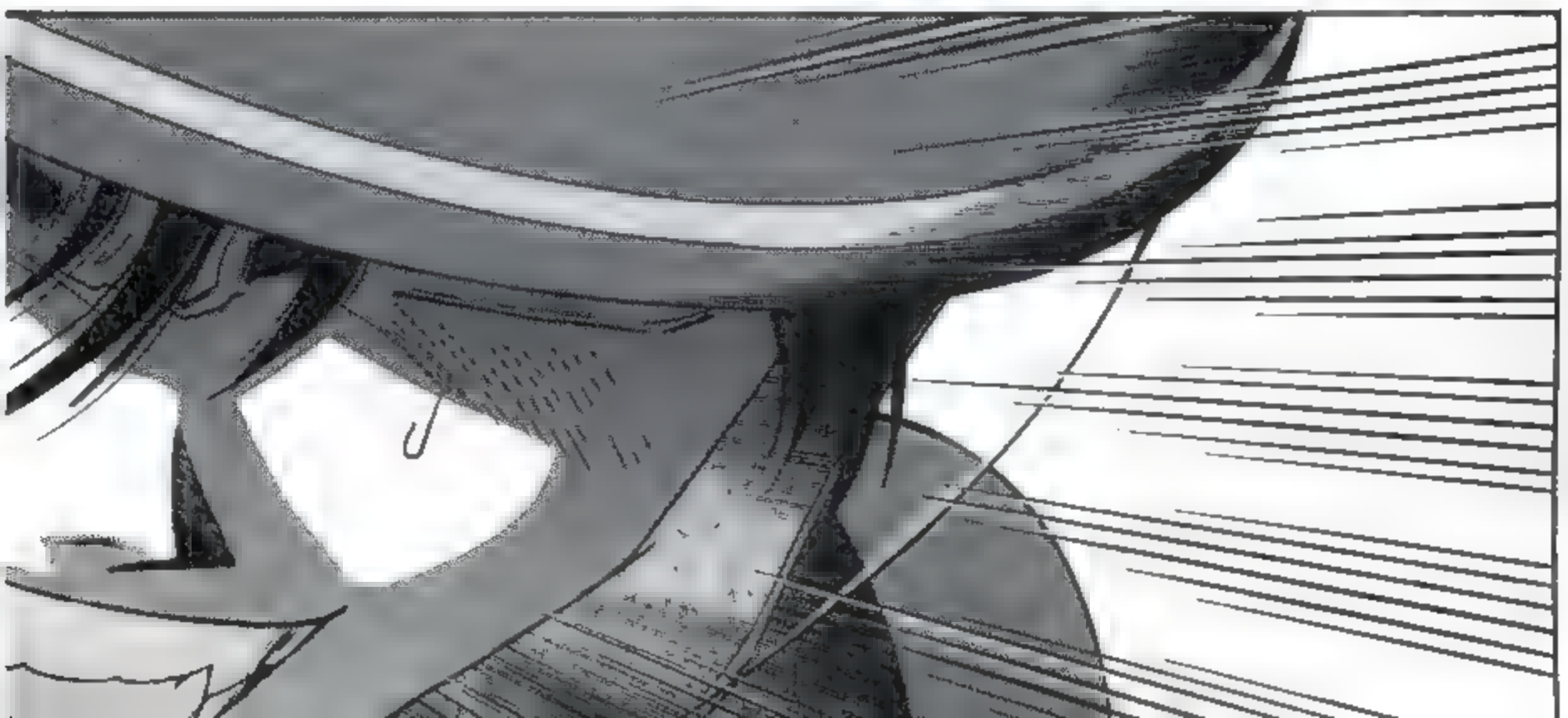
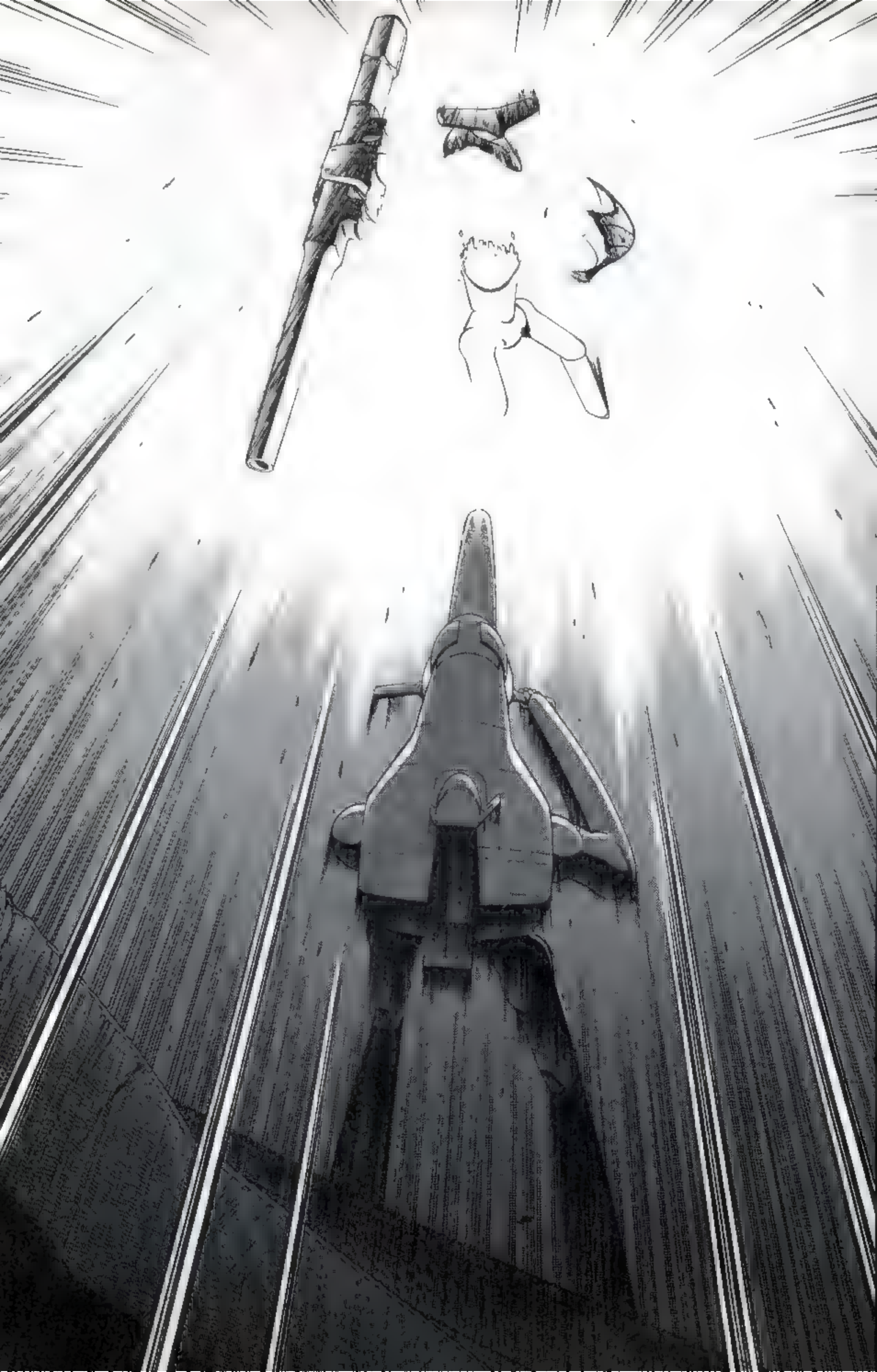
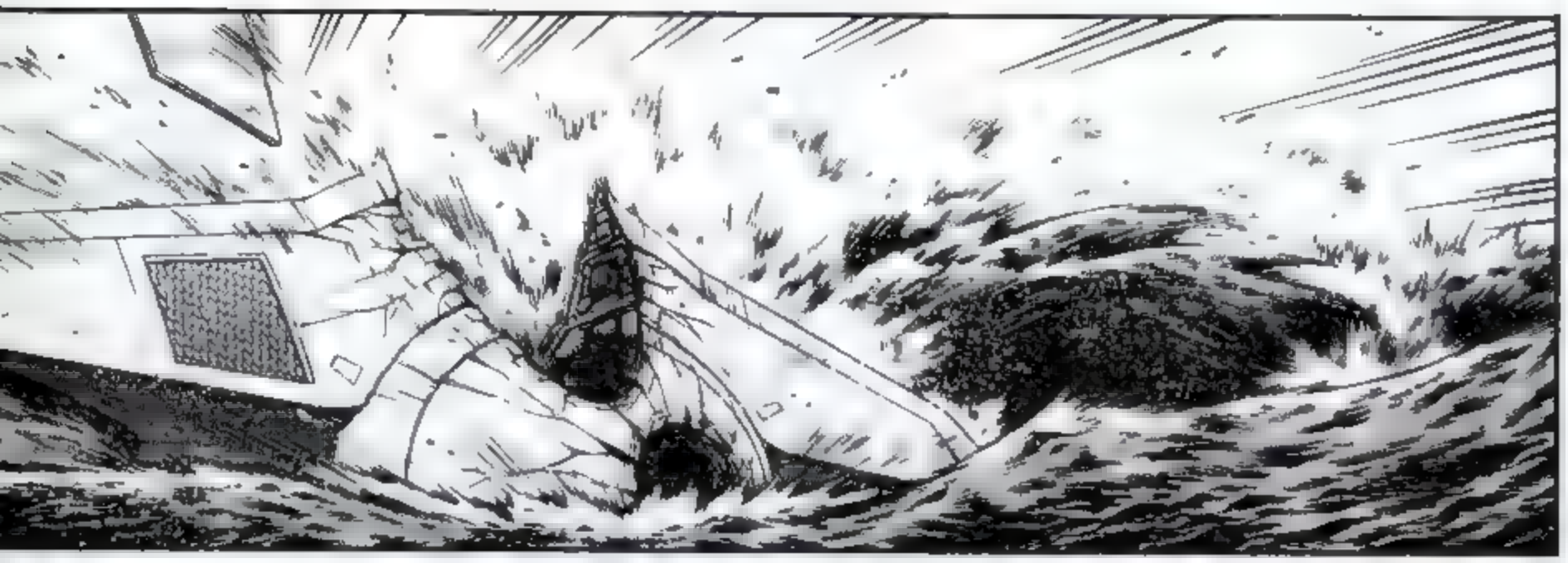
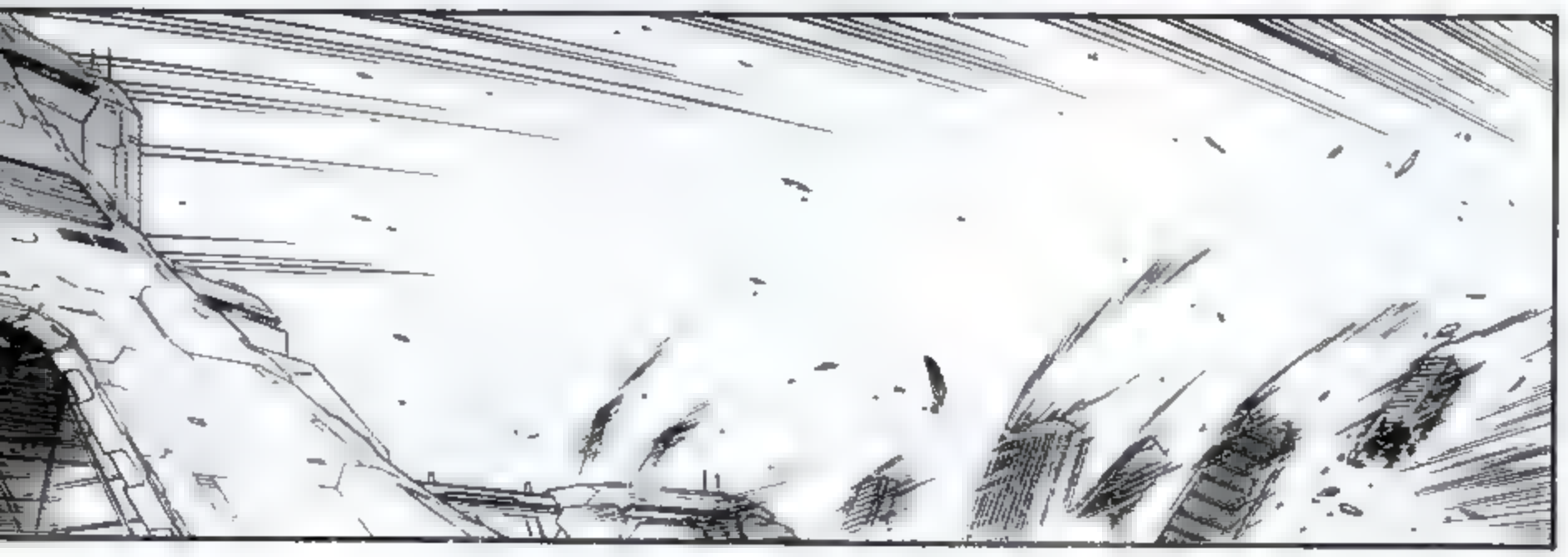


CHOOM



WHKOOOM





YOU *DID* IT! WAY TO *GO*, HOICHI! THAT'S MY BOY!
WE'RE NOT DETECTING ANY *ANTIMATTER LEAKAGE* FROM THE ENEMY'S *XXX UNIT*, MASTER HOSUKE!
THEY MUST HAVE *DRAINED* THEIR SUPPLY WHILE TRYING TO NEGATE THE GREATER KINETIC ENERGY OF EXAXXION'S *FULL-BARREL* CANNON FIRE!
HEY, ALL'S WELL THAT *ENDS* WELL! THIS IS ALMOST *TOO* GOOD!
ROLL OUT THE *INFO WAR*, LADIES! SPREAD THE *MEME!* BAD OL' GENERAL SHES'KAS *DEAD AS A DOORNAIL!*

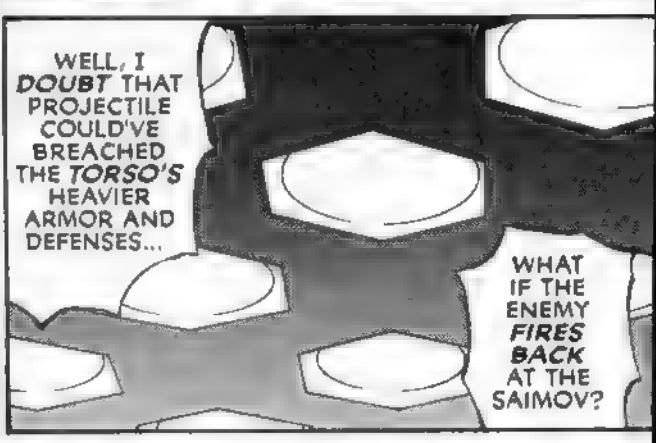
HOSUKE KANO – Hoichi's father, a brilliant-yet-perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion and created the ***Exaxxion*** super robot for humanity's defense

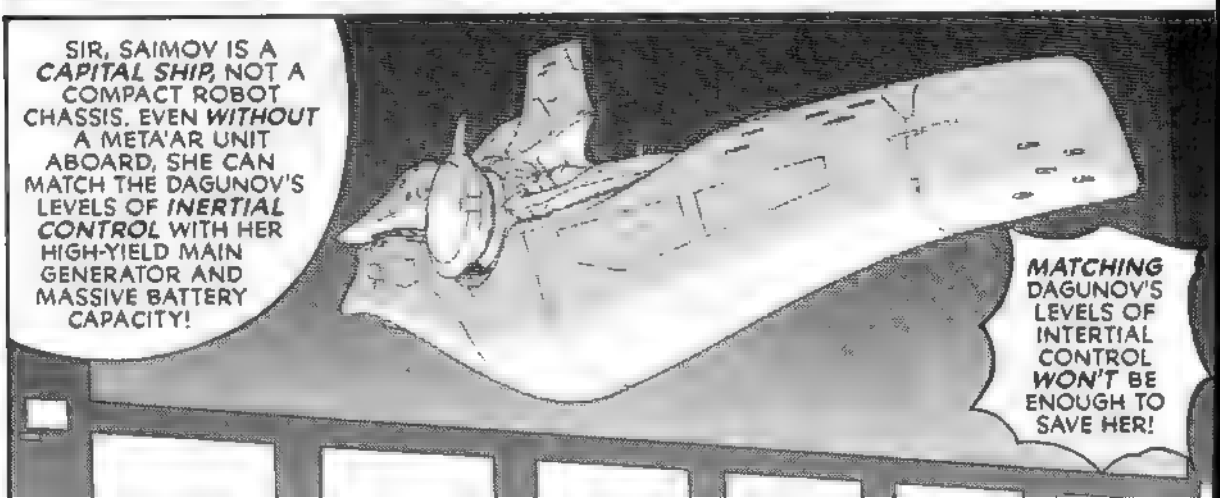
BUT *WHAT NOW?*
OUR META'AR UNIT IS *GONE!* AND THE HOSTAGES AT THE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE ARE *USELESS,* SINCE THE ENEMY PILOT CLEARLY DOESN'T *CARE* ABOUT THEM!

HMM... WHAT'S THE STATUS OF MOBILE DREAD-NAUGHT *SAIMOV?*
CAPTAIN RYA'AM?

YES, SIR... THE SAIMOV REMAINS IN *LOW ORBIT,* WITH THE ENEMY *JUST* WITHIN MAXIMUM RANGE OF HER WEAPONRY.
HER *MAIN CANNON* IS EQUIVALENT TO DAGUNOV ONE'S, SIR...

BUT DO WE KNOW *FOR CERTAIN* THAT THE SAIMOV'S CANNON *CAN'T* HURT THAT ROBOT?
WE'VE NEVER SCORED A DIRECT HIT ON ITS *MAIN BODY,* AFTER ALL...AND ITS *ARM* WAS DETACHED BY A CANNON STRIKE, REMEMBER?


WELL, I *DOUBT* THAT PROJECTILE COULD'VE BREACHED THE *TORSO'S* HEAVIER ARMOR AND DEFENSES...
WHAT IF THE ENEMY *FIRES BACK* AT THE SAIMOV?


SIR, SAIMOV IS A *CAPITAL SHIP,* NOT A COMPACT ROBOT CHASSIS. EVEN *WITHOUT* A META'AR UNIT ABOARD, SHE CAN MATCH THE DAGUNOV'S LEVELS OF *INERTIAL CONTROL* WITH HER HIGH-YIELD MAIN GENERATOR AND MASSIVE BATTERY CAPACITY!
MATCHING DAGUNOV'S LEVELS OF INERTIAL CONTROL *WON'T* BE ENOUGH TO SAVE HER!

THE SAIMOV *STAYS* OUT OF BATTLE UNTIL ORDERED!
THE *REAL* QUESTION HERE IS THE *HOME-WORLD!*
EVEN WITH THE *GATE* DOWN, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE *FIRST DIVISION* REACHES THIS SYSTEM.
IF WE CAN'T SECURE THE ENEMY'S *META'AR UNIT* BY THEN, WE WON'T STAND A *CHANCE!*
HOW ABOUT THIS...*GENERAL SHES'KA* COMMANDEERED THE DAGUNOV, WHICH HE ORDERED BUILT *ENTIRELY* ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY, AND *FORCED* US TO COOPERATE...
...BACKED BY THE THREAT OF A *GIANT CANNON* AND THE *GATE'S* STOLEN META'AR UNIT!
....
....
I *LIKE* IT!
YES...ARMED WITH *INSURMOUNTABLE* OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, SHES'KA *OVERCAME* US AND STAGED A COUP...BUT THE WOULD-BE *DICTATOR'S* GRAB FOR POWER ENDED IN *DISASTER.*
AND NOW WE'RE *FREE,* ONCE AGAIN, TO PROUDLY EXECUTE THE *HOME-WORLD'S* ORDERS...

AGREED! BUT I WANT TO *CONFIRM* THAT WE'LL STILL TRY TO ACQUIRE THAT METAAR UNIT *BEFORE* FIRST DIVISION ARRIVES...

QUITE SO... REGARDLESS OF *HOW* WE PLAY OUR CARDS, IT WOULD BE *PERFECT* TO HAVE THAT OPTION OPEN TO US!

BUT WE'LL STILL NEED A CONVINCING *REASON* AS TO WHY WE DIDN'T CONTACT THE HOMEWORLD *EARLIER...*

WE CAN JUST SAY THAT *SHES'KA* WRECKED BOTH THE PRIMARY AND EMERGENCY *COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS* BEFORE HE DESTABILIZED THE GATE.

WE NEED ONLY *REWRITE THE RECORDS* TO COVER OUR TRACKS...

Scanned By BkMDOG21 For #CGE-HQ

GENTLEMEN, IT SEEMS THAT WE HAVE *CONSENSUS,* HERE ..BUT WE SHOULD *DEFINITELY* KEEP THIS WHOLE INCIDENT *SECRET* FROM THE EARTH'S MASSES.

AGREED.

EVER SINCE THIS *EXAXXION* APPEARED, WE'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH *EXTENSIVE* ANTI-GOVERNMENT AGITATION AROUND THE GLOBE.

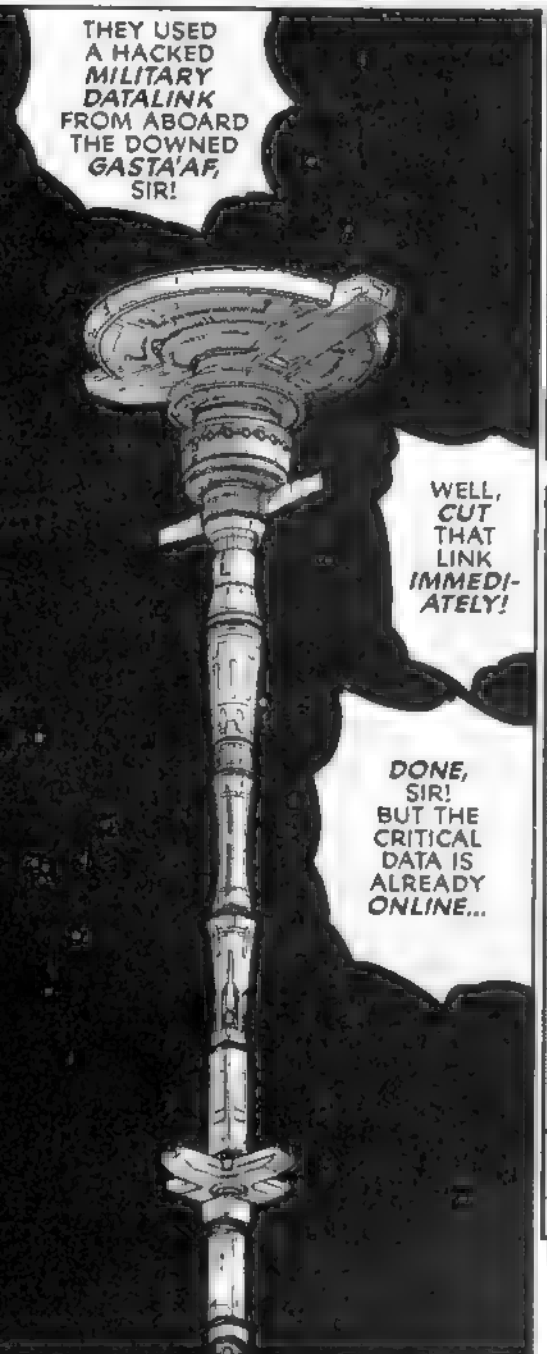
WE MUSTN'T ALLOW *FUEL* TO BE ADDED TO THOSE FIRES...

HOWEVER, *DAGUNOV ONE'S* DEMISE WILL BE VERY HARD TO CONCEAL...

WE NEED A PLEASING *COVER STORY...* PERHAPS THE DAGUNOV'S PILOT *HESITATED,* LEST THE ELEVATOR BASE BE HARMED, AND THUS *DIED* A HERO--

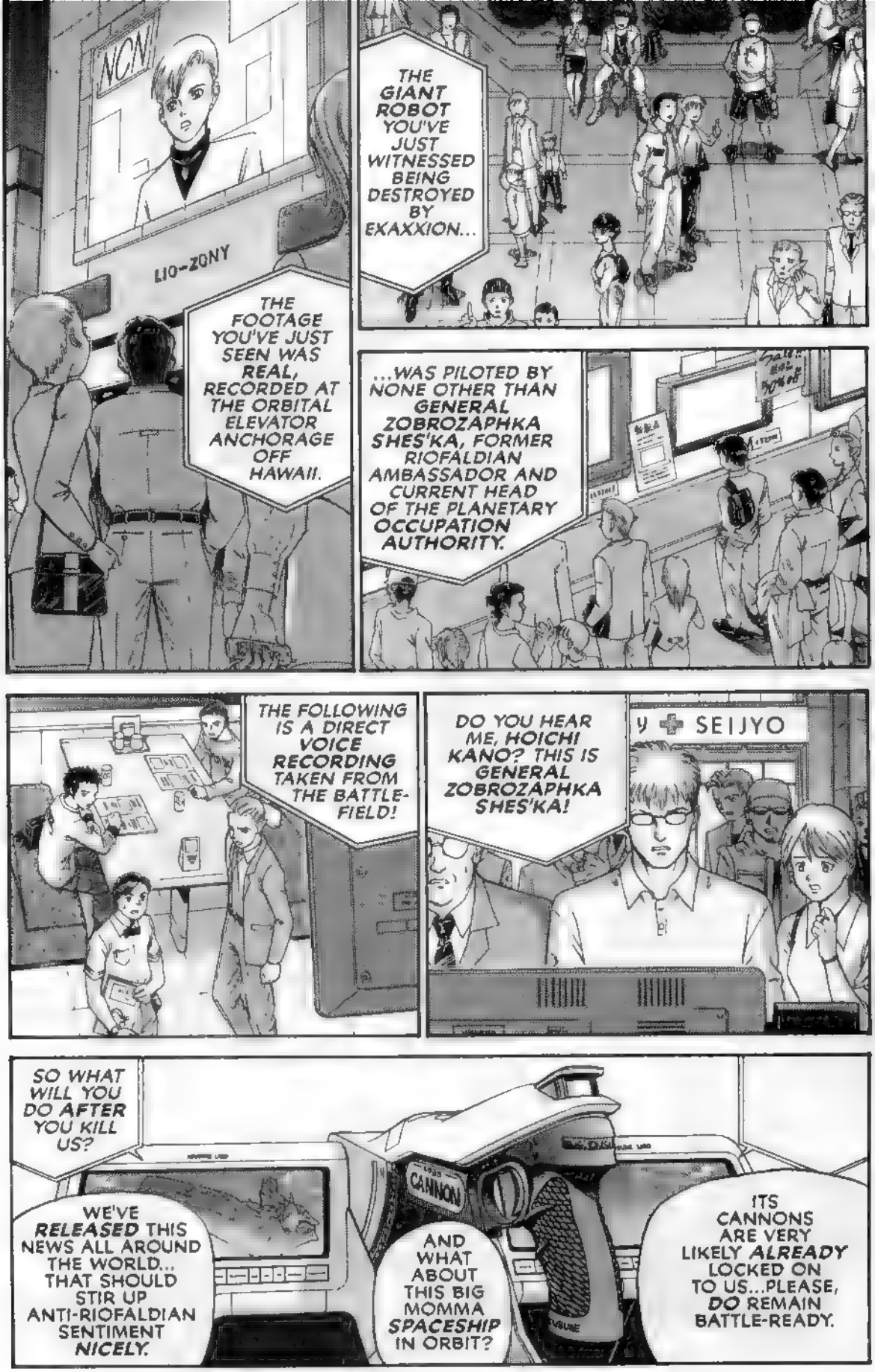
OH!

FOOTAGE OF THE *ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE* BATTLE... IT'S AIRING ON *NET TV* WORLDWIDE!
FMP
WHA?!
I THOUGHT THE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE WAS UNDER *LEVEL ONE* SECURITY LOCKDOWN!


THEY USED A HACKED *MILITARY DATALINK* FROM ABOARD THE DOWNED *GASTA'AF,* SIR!
WELL, *CUT* THAT LINK *IMMEDIATELY!*
DONE, SIR! BUT THE CRITICAL DATA IS ALREADY *ONLINE...*

ALAS, GENTLEMEN... IT SEEMS THAT WE CAN SOON EXPECT EVEN *MORE* HUMAN RESISTANCE AND GUERRILLA ACTION...

LET'S TAKE A *BREAK,* LADIES.. SWITCH THE MAIN FEED INTO THE *LIVING ROOM!*
PSHNNKK
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SIR!


NCN
LIO-ZONY
THE FOOTAGE YOU'VE JUST SEEN WAS REAL, RECORDED AT THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE OFF HAWAII.
THE GIANT ROBOT YOU'VE JUST WITNESSED BEING DESTROYED BY EXAXXION...
...WAS PILOTED BY NONE OTHER THAN GENERAL ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA, FORMER RIOFALDIAN AMBASSADOR AND CURRENT HEAD OF THE PLANETARY OCCUPATION AUTHORITY.
THE FOLLOWING IS A DIRECT VOICE RECORDING TAKEN FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD!
DO YOU HEAR ME, HOICHI KANO? THIS IS GENERAL ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA!
SEIJYO
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU KILL US?
WE'VE RELEASED THIS NEWS ALL AROUND THE WORLD... THAT SHOULD STIR UP ANTI-RIOFALDIAN SENTIMENT NICELY.
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS BIG MOMMA SPACESHIP IN ORBIT?
CANNON
ITS CANNONS ARE VERY LIKELY ALREADY LOCKED ON TO US...PLEASE, DO REMAIN BATTLE-READY.

HEY, OLD MAN! YOU READING ME?

YO!

I KILLED THAT *SHES'KA* BASTARD AND BLEW THEIR *XXX ROBOT* TO BITS... SO, IS THE WAR *OVER* NOW?

"OVER"? HELL, THESE ARE **ALIENS**, LADDIE. TRUCES, ARMISTICES, TREATIES...THAT CRAP OBVIOUSLY MEANS **NOTHING** TO THEM, AT LEAST WHEN **HUMANS** ARE INVOLVED!

WHR OOM

THEN WE'RE STUCK IN A DAMN *QUAGMIRE*, AREN'T WE? HOW THE HELL DO I *END* THIS?

WELL, JUST GET YOUR BUTT **BACK TO BASE** NOW, MY BOY. WE CAN STRATEGIZE **LATER.**

KUANGG

KUANGG

ISAKA... PREP US FOR A GRAVITY JUMP!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

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HOICHI "GUN" KANO
Hotheaded teen pilot of the Exaxxion super-robot, recently re-dedicated to overcoming the Roufaldian invasion.

AKANE HINO
A bright, investigative teen reporter, she is deeply in love with Hoichi.

HOSUKE KANO
Hoichi's father, a brilliant yet perverse scientist who predicted the alien invasion.

ISAKA MINAGATA
Beautiful android girl, protecting and guiding Hoichi as she's linked to the Exaxxion robot.

THE STORY SO FAR...

HOICHI "GUN" KANO was content to be an underachieving, rowdy skirt-chaser in high school until an alien invasion forced him into the role of Earth's savior, especially after his close friend, AKANE HINO, was captured! Freeing her only cemented his resolve to fight the Riofaldian army threatening to enslave humanity. With the ISAKA android by his side and his demented father, HOSUKE KANO, trying to call the shots from a protected base of operations, Hoichi hopes to destroy the Riofaldians' own XXX super-robot before it can be deployed...